

So what is God for?

RORPROR

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 1996

Photography and the new censorship

By Suzanne Moore

The photographer Robert Mappiethorpe set out to shock But little could be have known though that a photograph taken twenty years ago of a three year old girl would, in today's climate, be seen as more controversial than explicit photographs of sado-masochistic

The picture, entitled Rosie, is of a little girl wearing a dress but no underwear sitting on a pew. The decision of the Hayward Gallery not to show it was taken after advice from the police who explained that the climate surrounding images of children's has changed since

The forthcoming exhibition

Does it mean that none of us can see an image because a tiny minority may find it arousing?

has already toured places as diverse as Israel and New Zealand, so we might ask if this anxiety is peculiarly British. Predictably, the photograph has already been condemned as "utterly horrific" and as "child pornography" by Esther Rantzen, though when exactly Ms. Rantzen saw this particular image is difficult to ascertain. One can't help wondering if this photo had been taken by anyone other than Mapplethorpe whether it would have been withdrawn. Unusually for a Mapplethorpe work the obscenity here is largely in the eye of the beholder.

While much of Mapplethorpe's ocuvre is notorious for the debates it has fuelled about artistic freedom and censorship. charges of obscenity have tended to focus on more obviously disturbing works such as those of a mutilated male genitalia. Indeed the Hayward will exhibit many of "the X port folio" sex photographs which prompted Senator Jesse Helm's wife to exclaim "Lord have mercy Jesse. I'm not believing this..." as



Body of work: An example of the pieces that the controversial photographer, Robert Mapplethorpe, will be exhibiting at Copyright: The Estate of Robert Mapplethorpe the Hayward Gallery in London from next Thursday

al. The trial resulted in understandable paranoia in every American museum and funding body. Are we becoming similarly paranoid? Would the police have been invited to view this exhibition if it were being staged at a privately owned gallery like Saatchi's? While there is undoubtedly

well as a full-scale obscenity tri- a huge gulf between the language of art criticism and common-sense notions of decency, the current sensitivity about images of children produces the bizarre situation in which there is no such thing as an innocent image of a child, where a graphic portrayal of "fisting" is seen

as less problematic. We may be more aware of

paedophilia than we were in 1976. But does that mean that none of us can see an image because a tiny minority may find it arousing? Such a fundamentalist argument would eventually eliminate the human body and its dangerous desires from art altogether, something that Mapplethorpe fought against all his life.

Is scouring images of three year olds for evidence of sexuality, theirs or ours, a good way to maintain public innocence? doubt it somehow but then Mapplethorpe's friends always did describe him as "a fall-

en angel".
"Mapplethorpe" is at the Hayward Gallery in London from 19 September until 17 November

EU orders: Don't work long hours

EXCLUSIVE

SARAH HELM

New European rules which would force the Government to accept a maximum 48-hour week for workers who traditionally work longer hours are contained in politically explosive proposals prepared by the Eu-

The rules, which extend an existing European directive, would cause widespread up heaval in the National Health Service, provoking a revolution in the training of doctors. They would also have far-reaching repercussions for the transport and fishing industries.

The Commission plans, con-tained in a confidential White Paper, could be tabled as early as next month, causing new ferment in the Tory party. The proposals are likely to force John Major into further headon clashes with his European partners, at a special European mini-summit to be held in October, ahead of the Conser-

vative Party conference. Britain has already launched a legal challenge to the European Union's existing 48 hour working week directive, arguing the rules breach the spirit of Britain's social chapter optout. The judges are expected to

rule on the case next month. When the original directive was drawn up a number of politically sensitive workers were exempted from the first tranche of the legislation. If, as widely expected, the Luxembourg court rejects Britain's attempt to quash the first directive, the

Commission intends to table its

new White Paper extending the 48 hour maximum week to the exempted workers. "You could say we will be going for a double-whammy," said one Commission official yesterday.

Senior Government officials say there is acute nervousness about the pending European Court judgment. The original working hours directive, agreed in 1993, set out rules to ensure the health and safety of work-



hours a week, minimum rest periods and a four week mini-

mum annual paid holiday. During the negotiations, Britain and some other member states secured exemptions for workers in air, rail, road and sea transport. Fishermen, and those engaged in other work at sea were also exempted, as

were "doctors in training" However, the Commission always pledged it would extend the rules to the exempted areas. It argues that it has a duty to propose legislation on working hours under Article 118a of the

Treaty of Rome, which requires that member states observe basic health and safety standards, and make improvements "in the working environment". Article 118a was incorporated into the Treaty as part of the Single European Act of 1986, which was strongly supported by the British Government.

For John Major, however, the EU's proposals on working hours have always been deemed a hindrance to competitive working practises. The Government abstained in 1993 when the first rules were passed, pledging a court battle. Before the European judges the Gov-ernment has argued that working hours are not a matter of health and safety, and accused the Commission of wrongly applying Article 118a. However, even senior Government officials recognise the European Court is likely to find that the number of hours spent at work is a health and safety issue.

Britain has also argued that the working hours rules breached the spirit of the social chapter opt-out, which Britain won at Maastricht. However, the working hours directive is not a part of the social chapter.

Should the court reject Britain's claim, Mr Major bas pledged a major battle to rewrite Article 118a in the current inter-governmental conference on EU reform.

In the meantime, however the government faces severe embarrassment. If the court backs the Commission, the first directive would have to be implemented by 23 November. After that date, workers in Britain could sue the Government if it fails to comply.

QUICKLY

Ecstasy v Prozac

There is "no logical reason" why the anti-depressant Prozac is legal yet the rave drug ecstasy is illegal, said Steven Rose, one of Britain's most eminent brain scientists, yesterday.

The Government's campaign to block European Union business in order to lift the ban on

Beef battle failure

British beef exports was a failure, the Prime Minister has effectively admitted.

Sir knows best Heads know best and governors should overturn their decisions over exclusions only in exceptional circumstances, headteachers' leaders said. Page 2

7 × 8 € . \$

Rosy future The Prime Minister, John Major, has privately told party workers that the prize awaiting the winner of the next general election will be the best economic prospects since the First

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Padania: new European country, or just an excuse for a party?

By Andrew Gumbel

You are all invited to join in three days of fun and celebration this weekend. The northern third of Italy - or rather, the Republic of Padania - is about to declare its independence.

There will be speeches and political rallies featuring the separatists' very own Boy Scouts in their green shirts, not to mention a solemn "baptism" in which a sacred phial will be filled with river water and carried to Padania's selfproclaimed capital, Venice.

You can obtain a Padanian identity card or some "Bank of the North" bank -notes. There will even be a ritual burning of Italian television licences.

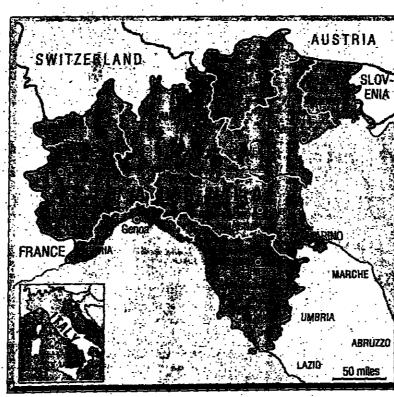
But above all there will be music and dancing, and, to cap it all, a giant beach party in Chioggia with lashings of nti alle vongole.

It will be a strange birth of a nation. For a start, Padania is not a nation at all. It does not even have borders, let alone a separate political structure. The Padanians are not an ethnic group, and there is certainly no groundswell among the northern Italians in favour of

The whole issue has been invented and inflated by the most relentlessly nonconformist of Italy's political parties, the Northern League, and scorned by pretty much everyone else. What is going on? Is this an independence movement, or have the Marx Brothers come to town?

The truth is, two distinct Padanias are being born this weekend. The first is pure folklore, a fictional creation that owes more to Mr Bossi's outlandish sense of humour than to political

This is the Padania whose main exports are suits of medieval chainmail, souvenir cigarette butts discarded by the gravel-throated party leader himself, erners, and all those bogus banknotes. destabilising and irresponsible, but that demands ever higher taxes while



Two Padanias are being born - the first is pure folklore, the second is the Italy that works and makes money

Padania, but the point is that it provokes It is a media smash-hit.

To northerners living in some fog-shrouded industrial suburb in the Po valley, it restores a sense of fun to a life of tedious, if affluent, provincialism. To southerners and the high authorities of that is fed up to the back teeth with the state in Rome, this Padania may seem inefficiencies of a central government

Nobody is ever going to vote for this still they cannot stop talking about it.

The second Padania is far more serious, and the one that could have an effect on all our lives. It is the Italy that works, that makes money, that commands international respect, the Italy delivering less and less in return. This Padania acts European, feels European, and doesn't see why it shouldn't be part of Maastricht and the single currency from the word go.

In a Europe of regions rather than nations, this Padania would be right up there at the top of the pile. If the single European currency is a success, it would be sorely tempted to introduce it even if the rest of Italy has to soldier on with the lira.

Such sentiments sound like treason to the rest of the country. Italy's postwar order was founded on principles of unity and pluralism, principles that, in the late-1940s, banished the twin spectres of Fascism and civil war and are generally considered the corner-stone of the country's democratic

The uncomfortable truth for Italy is that the new Europe will force a rethink of such received ideas sooner or later. If northern businesses and banks are happy to work with the Euro as a par-allel currency, how is the government going to stop them?

Obviously, it makes no sense for Padania to break away if the rest of Italy goes down the plughole, and the latent anti-southern hostility in the League's rhetoric needs to be watched.

But Mr Bossi's message - while it is not always palatable - cannot be ig-

As an appeal for greater regionalism, it applies to Catalonia and Scotland just as much as it does to northern Italy. This weekend's jamboree on the Po is just the beginning.



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SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The political damage inflicted on the lory party by its reluctance to ban hand guis was highlighted yesterday bythe resignation of Tory MP Sebastian Coe from a gun group

accused of smearing a father who lost a child in the Dunblane school massacre. A newsletter published by the National Pistol

Association made a series of accusations against John Crozier,

2

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Beef war a fiasco, PM admits

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

The Government's campaign this summer to block European Union business in order to lift the ban on British beef exports was a failure, the Prime Minister admitted yesterday, by con-firming that the BSE cull of cattle was being reviewed.

The cull was the basis of the deal struck at the Florence summit in June. In that deal, other EU countries agreed to a stage-by-stage lifting of the ban, and John Major agreed to end his policy of non-cooperation with EU institutions. But over the summer, Conservative MPs a reason for re-examining the cull - although previously Anmade it clear they would not

support the Government in the Commons vote next month to that this might mean that more consumer better protection." authorise the extra cull of 125,000 younger cattle.

ford University study published last mouth. This suggested that many more BSE-infected cows had been sold for food than previously estimated. But it also pre-

dicted that BSE, or "mad-cow disease", would dwindle almost to extinction by 2001. Mr Major also cited new evidence that BSE could be passed from mother to calf as

cows, rather than fewer, would have to be slaughtered. Mr Major was provided with

"So those are two new maa figleaf for his retreat by an Oxterial facts," said Mr Major, on tour in the West Country. "We have to consider them. There is no pre-ordained outcome. What we are doing is considering it and we will no doubt wish to consult with the Luropean Union and then we will make a final decision."

But a European Commission spokesman said yesterday: "We always knew that BSE was going to disappear in five or six years. The reasoning behind a selective slaughter plan is to re-duce the incidence of the disgela Browning, the junior agri-

A spokesman for Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, warned Britain to honour its commitment to the selective slaughter of high-risk cattle. "The selective-slaughte plan was an integral part of the Florence agreement.

"The step-by-step approach to the lifting of the ban was dependent on the selective-slaughter plan," he said.

The main opposition parties quickly seized on the Prime Minister's embarrassment. Gavin Strang, Labour's agriculture spokesman, described the Florence deal as "lousy". He said: "The Government had

did not even bring back a timetable for the lifting of the beef-export ban, and nor did they bring our farmers any guarantees that any future agreement would be reached on any of the steps towards the lift-

ing of the ban." Paul Tyler, for the Liberal Democrats, welcomed moves to reduce the cuil: "Ministers are realising that there is no point in a mass-slaughter scheme if it neither speeds up the eradication of BSE, nor opens the ex-

port doors again."

And Mr Major also came under fire from the internal opposition Redwood Party. John

pledged the slaughter of around 120,000 cattle. In return, they ership challenger, said he hoped the Government would be able to negotiate a better deal killing fewer cows, while lifting the export ban.

There is no point in killing cows that we think should not be killed unless that action gets the beef ban lifted," he said on BBC Radio 4's World at One programme. "If there is no prospect of the ban being lifted, the best we can do is to look after our own farmers and domestic market and there is every reason for not killing all these cows unnecessarily. should kill that number which our own scientific advice and judgment says is correct."

whose daughter, Emma, five, was among 16 children and one teacher murdered in the attack last March. Mr Coe's resignation as NPA honorary president follows the decision earlier this summer by the six Tory members of the Home Affairs select committee to oppose a ban on hand guns being kept at home. The former Olympic champion who is now MP for Falmouth and Camborne and a junior + government whip, said in a statement that the NPA had expressed views about the Dumblane tragedy which have caused much anger and upset. I have now studied these

comments and the sentiments expressed, with which I disagree". John Rentoul

A £120,000 study to see how hard consultant surgeons work has been commissioned by the Department of Health after evidence that some operate only once or twice a week for the National Health Service, while spending three or four

half-days weekly in the private sector.

The project, which will be in two NHS regions and will also look at physicians' workloads, will be undertaken by John Yates, of the Health Services Management Centre at Birmingham University, who has produced specialist studies on doctors' work practices and waiting lists. Mr Yates's research shows 10-fold variations in how many NHS operations surgeons carry, he told the NHS Trust Federation conference in Birmingham yesterday. Nicholas Timmins

Both the Tory and Labour parties will break up after the next election, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, predicts in an interview published tomorrow. Forecasting a "realignment" of British politics despite an outright majority for Tony Blair, Mr Ashdown sees his party as poised to benefit.

Both main parties contain "people who are diametrically opposed to each other and I see the next election as the

point at which there is a real opportunity for new formations in politics," Mr Ashdown tells the New Statesman magazine, suggesting that Europe could be the trigger issue. Speaking before his party's conference in Brighton in 10 days time, he says: If we can articulate clearly enough what we stand for, if we have courage, the party has a good chance of making real progress, of being the catalyst that brings about realignment." John Rentoul

Cases of mutti-drug resistant TB (MDR TB) could rise dramatically in the developed world because of poor treatment of the disease in the Third World, an expert warned yesterday. Professor-Sir John Crofton, a consultant to the World Health Organisation, warned that many Indian doctors were failing to prescribe tuberculosis drugs correctly, increasing the chances of drug resistance. With travel to and from the sub-continent growing, more people would be exposed to MDR TB, he told the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Glasgow. About one-third of the world's population is infected with TB, and deaths from the disease reached record heights in 1995. Liz Hunt

Seventeen rebel councillors were expelled from the Labour Party in the politically troubled borough of Hackney, east London, last night. The expulsions, believed to have been sanctioned by the party leadership, came hours before the rebels forced a vote on an alleged cover-up of child sex abuse in the borough. The rebels, who had resigned from Hackney's official Labour group and formed Hackney New Labour Group, have already forged political links with Liberal Democrat and They councillors. They said abuse claims involving a care worker who died last year of an Aids-related illness were "the straw which broke the camel's back".

Pritain's powers to block television pornography
Preceived from the Continent are not affected by a ruling from the European Court of Justice, government officials emphasised yesterday. They said fears that Tuesday's judgment would open the flood-gates to X-rated satellite pornography channels were unfounded. A Department of National Heritage spokesman said: "This has no bearing on our existing powers. It does not affect our ability to use the powers that we already have to prevent people receiving these channels." The judgment, he added, was a technical one and would have no practical effect on the way Britain handled the issue. Marianne Macdonald

lav

Aseaside resort is to colour code its beach so that lost children and their parents can be reunited more quickly. Children will be issued with coloured bracelets to match the zone where their parents are sitting on the beach at Bournemouth, Dorset, which has a six-mile promenade. On one summer day this year, inspectors dealt with 50 lost children. David Jones, general manager of Bournemouth sea front, said yesterday that children paddling up and down could sometimes lose their bearings, but would be able to home in on the coloured signs.

British Gas, facing record numbers of complaints from customers, yesterday ventured into financial services, another industry plagued with a poor public image, with the launch of a new credit card. The Goldfish card, jointly launched with American-owned HFC Bank, gives a £1 discount on gas bills for every £100 spent with the card, up to £75. But the card's launch was condemned by Robin Simpson, acting director at the National Consumer Council: It looks like a gimmick to help British Gas hang on to its wealthier customers as the industry becomes more competitive," he said. Nic Cicutti

Spectacular coastal sand dunes in north Devon were yesterday de-listed as a National Nature Reserve by English Nature because of a disagreement with the owners. English Nature because of grazing was the most effective way of managing the 1,200 acres of Braunton Burrows, on the Taw-Torridge estuary in north Devon. But the Christic estate which has managed the area for hundreds of years. estate, which has managed the area for hundreds of years, maintained that the introduction of cattle grazing could be "potentially devastating". The de-listing of the Burrows — with dunes up to 30m high, 400 flowering plant species and 50,000 visitors a year — was an unusual step, English Nature admitted. It remains a site of special scientific interest.

pock star David Bowie released his latest single exclusively on the Internet yesterday. "Telling Lies" will not be sold in shops or heard on the radio, so fans will have to download for three versions of the song in compact-disc quality from his official Internet site. This is believed to be the first time a major artist has released a full server. the first time a major artist has released a full song on the worldwide computer network.

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OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Back issues of the tadependant are available front

Girl may have waved to killer

Nine-year-old Josephine Russell, who survived a hammer attack which left her mother and sister dead, may have waved to their killer minutes before he launched his frenzied assault,

detectives say. Police interviewing the girl about the murders in Chillenden, Kent, yesterday said she saw the man attack her mother, Lin, after he confronted them on a footpath. She has told police that a computerised image of a man seen near the scene looks "very similar" to the man who attacked her. A police spokesman said had a verv strong reaction to the picture. and was obviously frightened.

Josephine, her mother and her six-year-old sister Megan were bludgeoned as they walked from Goodnestone school to their home in Chillenden on 9 July. Police are hoping that in interviews today she will be able to tell them when her sister and the family pet dog were also attacked.

Police have maintained a 24hour guard on the Russell home since Josephine came out of hospital last month.



Rare breeds: A Staffordshire ram takes to the streets in Mayfair, central London, to promote the publication of British Farm Animal Portraiture, a new

two or more schools.

recognition."

Mr Hart said: "The pendu-

lum has swung too far in the di-rection of individual parental

and pupil rights. It is time that

the interests of the law-abiding

majority of parents, pupils and

their teachers were given equal

tinghamshire case, Mrs Shep-hard told BBC Radio 4's World

At One that she had the power

to intervene over an exclusion

only if the governors had be-haved unlawfully "which they haven't in this instance." Re-

sponsibility rested with the lo-

cal authority.
But the National Union of

Teachers, whose members in-

clude Manton Junior's head.

asked her to re-examine her

powers. The Department for Education said no final decision

had been taken on the legisla-

tion but it could require appeals

Commenting on the Not-

Headteachers tell school governors: We know best the Government should tighten the rules on exclusions to plainly not sensible. It is entirely dren have been excluded from

Education Editor

Heads know best and governors should overturn their decisions over exclusions only in exceptional circumstances, head

teachers' leaders said yesterday. Governors reacted angrily to the heads' announcement made in response to a dispute at Manton Junior School in Nottinghamshire where governors have twice overturned the head's decision to exclude 10year-old Matthew Wilson for al-

legedly disruptive behaviour. Yesterday parents who had withdrawn their children from the school agreed to send them back as "a goodwill gesture" to persuade Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, to talk to them. They have been protesting at the one-to-one tuition provided for Matthew at a cost of £14,000 after teachers threatened to strike

if they had to teach him. Leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers said

en the rules on exclusions to stop governors overruling heads unless they have failed to follow the correct procedures. They should not think their judge-ment was better than the heads'.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, warned govemors not to become emotional about cases. He said: "This is a ludicrous situation in which the governing body has managed to act in such a way that it has turned not only the teachers but the majority of the parents against it.

"Arryone looking at the situation could have seen as plain as a pikestaff that spending £14,000 from the school budget would not be acceptable to parents because it is going to mean the loss of books and equipment or even of a teacher's job."

Walter Ulrich of the National Association of Governors and Managers said that the heads' proposals about governors' role in exclusions were

the responsibility of the head to decide whether children should be permanently excluded. There then has to be a proper review by someone who is not

as close to the affair." Heads also want appeal panels to be scrapped unless gov-ernors and the local authority disagree about an exclusion. In two recent decisions in Nottinghamshire and Hebburn. south Tyneside, independent

appeal panels overruled governors' decisions to expel pupils. Heads want a package of measures included in the Gov-ernment's bill on discipline which will be introduced into the Commons this autumn.

Power to detain pupils after school whether their parents agree or not.

agree or not.

Changes to allow pupils to be excluded for a longer period.

Legislation to allow schools to make home-school contracts

a condition of entry. Removal of parental choice a condition of entry. panels to consider the interests of all children, not just one.

neighbours who have not paid their bills.

Eastern Electricity, which has 3 million customers, is sending out letters to householders living next to customers who have moved away, asking for help "in providing any information you may have as to their current whereabouts".

The letter asks whether they know their former neighbour's new address, telephone number and name of their employer, It also asks for details of the landlord who owns the property or

Eastern's tacties have provoked anger among consumer groups and raised questions over whether the company is in breach of data protection legislation. Malcolm Roberts, chairman of the Eastern Region Electricity Consumers Com-

mittee, which covers an area from the Suffolk coast to north London, said: "I can't think of another organisation that would

tection Registrar said that Eastern may have breached the 1989 Electricity Act which prohibits electricity suppliers from disclosing customer information without customers' consent, except in some restricted cases.

laws and said that its methods of tracing customers were in accordance with codes of practice laid down by three credit agencies. Eastern had done it for decades, he said, and sent out several thousand such letters a

and Mercury all said they would not approach neighbours in order to pursue customer

Andie MacDowell talks exclusively to Radio Times about her modelling years. How it got her Into Hollywood and nearly got her laughed out. And how models aren't what they used to be.

RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Lottery tickets give game away

Crime does not pay, especially if villains have their alibis ruined by keeping their lottery tickets in their trousers.

In one of the lesser known spin-offs of Britain's lottery mania, the coded information a lottery ticket holds can help police pinpoint where and when the ticket was bought. The information, where it contradicts a claimed alibi, has been used in criminal courts and success ful convictions have followed.

Although the lottery is now an accepted British institution with 30 million computer terminal, as opposed to instant, tickets, sold every week, it would appear Britain's criminal fraternity have been slow to see they could be carrying around instant whistleblowers. Mike Pottinger of the lottery's operators. Camelot. said that his investigators helped police with information from tickets found on suspects. Mr Pottinger described the

assistance given to police fol-

lowing a burglary. Two suspects were found to have lottery tickets on them. From the tickets we knew when and where they were purchased. The police asked the owners of the house if they had bought tickets re-cently, and when and where. The police also asked the suspects, who claimed the tickets were theirs. The suspects were 100 miles out in where the tickets the bought. It helped secure their conviction."

Even Camelot's "Instants' game has built-in information that has assisted police in investigations. When a seller takes delivery of a pack of Instants cards, they have to be "activated". Mr Pottinger said that inactivated cards had been stolen, and that when the thieves tried to cash in the winners, terminals were able to trace where they being processed. "We found a pattern being made by the thieves, predicted their next stop, and waited. When they arrived the

Power customers asked to tell tales

MICHAEL HARRISON and ADRIAN HOLLIDAY

Britain's biggest regional elec-tricity company is asking its customers to give information on

the estate agent who sold it.

indulge in this sort of behaviour. It is appalling."
The Office of the Data Pro-

An Eastern spokesman de-nied that it was in breach of any

year. "We regard it as being in the interests of all our customers that debts are paid."
British Gas, British Telecom



th a chaste numb Photograph: Sheridan Morley

The Dior glory is Galliano's

Plumber's son set to take prestigious job, reports Tamsin Blanchard

John Galliano, the 35-year-old Streatham plumber's son, looks set to take over at one of the most historic, prestigious and wealthy couture houses in Paris, Christian Dior.

لكذا من ألاصل

Fashion industry insiders believe that Galliano, who spent much of the decade after leaving St Martin's in 1983 on the brink of financial disaster before being appointed to Givenchy, has been working an apprenticeship for the real task ahead as the designer at Dior. An an-nouncement is due between now and October's ready-to-wear shows

Both companies are owned by the French luxury goods conglomerate LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy), headed by the former property developer, Bernard Amault. Last year LVMH turned over

29.8bn francs (£3.8bn), putting it in France's top three companies. Arnault's collèction of de luxe names also includes Christian Lacroix, Guerlain, Kenzo, Moet et Chandon, Veuve Cliquot and Mercier champagne, Louis Vuitton and Loewe leather goods, as well as Hennessy cognac and

It is barely a year since Galliano joined Givenchy, where he has trans-formed the label from a supplier of prim, proper clothes to one that makes the sexiest. Under his own ready-to-wear label, Galliano dresses actresses Elizabeth Hurley, Sharon Stone and Nicole Kidman.

Since the announcement last July that Italian designer Gianfranco Ferre's contract with Dior was not to be renewed, fashion's rumour mills

have been working overtime. It seems that every designer under the sun has been approached by LVMH. But now Paris has reopened after the August holidays and Galliano's name is on the lips of every fashion insider, although contracts are yet to be

Out with the old: An example of the maestro's more outré output; an offering from signed. In 1994, Givenchy was John Galliano

being done to physically protect the tigers from the poachers."

Mr Day, a former advertising

executive who founded the

about Dior is its knack of transforming bottles of sweet-smelling water into mega dollars. Last year, Parfums Christian Dior turned over 5.5bn francs. Fashion sales were less than a quarter of those for fragrances. But it is the fashion, and the publicity that surrounds the catwalk shows, that gives the perfumes, the tights, the sunglasses and the makeup a brand image, a sense of history, and a reason to buy them. Under Gianfranco Ferre, Dior has all but turned its back on its own in-

worth 400m francs, pin money compared with Dior. What is significant

valuable archives. The combination of the House of Dior and the mad genius of John Galliano, is a potent one. In appointing Galliano, Arnault, a canny businessman, will have in mind the transformation at Chanel since Karl Lagerfeld took over in 1983. There is no doubt he has been planning as much since buying Christian Dior, his first fashion company, in 1984. When Lagerfeld took over Chanel,

the name and the archives of Coco Chanel were there, ready to be revitalised and brought into the Eighties. Lagerfeld has put the Chanel stamp on everything, from wellington boots to hair slides, selling at £99 each. And the company's latest perfume, Allure, looks set to be on many Christmas lists. According to a 1996 Mintel report, Chanel's share in the female fragrance market for 1995 was worth E35m. Dior's share was not far behind at £26m.

Galliano is no stranger to designer archives. He is an expert in fashion his-tory. At Dior, he would make use of

one of the most famous names in the world, with its princess line, the cardigan jacket, the black, navy blue and white colour palette, the ropes of pearls and of course, the grand ball gowns.

As for Givenchy, the house will suffer as yet

Claws bared in war over saving the Indian tiger

Photograph: Chris Moore

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Civil war broke out in the conservation camp yesterday when the world's largest environmental charity, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), was slated over its efforts to protect

the spring-summer 1995 ready-to-wear collection

"WWF are fiddling while Rome burns," said Michael Day, founder and chairman of the Tiger Trust. Arraigning the Indian government along with WWF, Mr Day told a press con-ference in London that unless immediate action was taken to stop poaching, the Indian tiger would be wiped out in five

WWF, whose international president is the Duke of Edinburgh, was even accused of not wanting to save the tiger because a healthy population of the big cats would make it harder to alarm people into making donations.

Guy Marriott, a former course of action for a commit-fundraiser for WWF who is now a Tiger Trust employee, said sav-ing the tiger would be "a mar-keting disaster" for the fund. WWF reacted swiftly to defend its record, repudiating Mr Marriott's allegation and point-ing out that Mr Day had a book tion effort." to promote - his Fight the Tiger



At bay: The Indian tiger is under threat Photograph: Ardea

came out in paperback six servation of Nature (IUCN), the weeks ago.

The latest estimate by the International Union for the Conplight of the species, nothing is

trust has an annual income of some £230,000, nearly all from donations. In each of the past two years it has put more than £40,000 into financing antipoaching personnel to protect the Siberian tiger. Repudiating Mr Day's accu-sations, set out in a report entitled The Big Cat Cover Up, WWF said it was spending £2.2m on tiger-related conserworld conservation body, put In-

vation projects this year, including £241,000 in India. "There are no easy ways of solving the current poaching problems, just as there are no quick-fix solutions to stopping the illegal trade in arms and nar-cotics," it said. The fund has put particular effort into reducing demand for tiger products and is talking with Chinese pharmedicines whose ingredients include tiger-body parts.

dia's tiger population at be-tween 2,500 and 3,750. Last year 73 tigers were known to have ted conservationist to take," a WWF spokeswoman said. The been killed by poachers but extiger remains in imminent danperts believe that the true figger of extinction because of poaching but this kind of thing are could be five times as many. Mr Day claimed 500 tigers were slaughtered last year. "In spite can only damage the conservaof the vast amounts raised each macists over alternatives to

This train inquiry is delayed because there are the wrong sort of people on the telephone line

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The telephone inquiry system for rail passengers is in such a mess that about a third of callers never get through. With reorganisation of the system and the privatisation of the rail net-work, a new national inquiry number, 0345 484950, has al-ready "gone live" in many parts mand from passengers; thousands of callers are cut off after

callers there were using the ser-vice daily and the number had to be withdrawn for London, with an answering message advising callers to contact one of

four other existing lines.

The Independent has received a number of complaints subsidiary, RailDirect, and the from readers bewildered by the rest by individual train operapartial introduction of the new system and who have often £1.4m in the Newcastle system, work, a new national distriction of the number is being introduced and is due to go fully into operation on 19 October. The cration on 19 October. The getting a reply. Other complainants were given wrong inplainants were given wrong information, as operators no of Britain but is already unable longer have any local knowlto cope with increasing de- edge. This is because when people dial the new national number and their local bureau nothing on for several numbers.

Although it was not advertised in London, up to 100,000 in Newcastle or Havant, where to be convinced of the formation" which does not need for extra investment be-favour their own company. holding on for several minutes. is engaged, they are transferred

operators have to deal with all fore major improvements can the rail network's 2,500 stations and 55 million fares, which are not available on one consoli-

dated computer system.

There are 45 bureaux, nine of which are provided by a BR. tors. While BR has invested cording to Jim Collins, managing director of RailDirect, "the train operators are too poor at the moment to pay for the new software and hardware that is

The national train-inquiry system, which deals with 40 million successful callers per year and an estimated 20 million who do not get through, has been deteriorating for a long time as investment failed to match growing demand. The CRUCC, the rail watchdog, said complaints about the traininquiry bureaux doubled over the past two years. As well as problems caused by reorganisation and the historic lack of capacity in the system, the rail regulator has added to the problem by requiring train operators to provide "impartial inCAR INSURANCE

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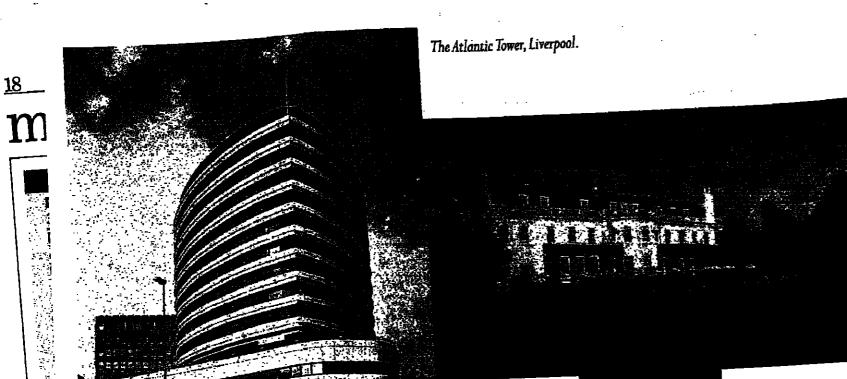
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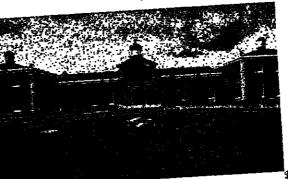
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THISTLE HOTELS SHARE OFFER

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The British Association for the Advancement of Science: Dangers posed by depressants and the maudlin sound of C&W

Healing

praised

Medicinal maggots are moving out of the hospital and into the wider community, where their use in medicine is set to grow. Already nurses are taking small pots full of the wrigeling larvae on home visits to patients ready

to insert them into wounds which are slow to heal. Dr Martin Hall of the Natural History Museum told the meeting. The larvae of the common

greenbottle fly, Lucilia scricata,

have a bacterium in their guts which secretes chemicals that

kill other bacteria that infect

wounds. Doctors have known for decades that they can eat

dead tissue in wounds and sup-

press infection, and their use is

radually increasing. But Dr

Hall, a veterinary entomologist,

believes they are under-

exploited, especially in the

Third World where they could

help to make up for the lack of

Brave new world comes one step closer

CHARLES ARTHUR

There is "no logical reason" why the antidepressant Prozac is legal yet the rave drug ecstasy is illegal, one of Britain's most eminent brain scientists said yesterday.

Professor Steven Rose warned the conference in Birmingham that we are moving inexorably to a world where there will be a far wider range of pharmaceutical drugs able to have all sorts of effects - many of ? them only dimly understood on the brain.

We need to look more closely at the border between legal and illegal drugs," he said. "The borderline is not absolute - it depends on society," said Professor Rose, a neuroscientist who is head of biology at the Open University.

Particularly worrying was the widespread use in the United States of ritalin, an amphetamine-like drug which is now prescribed to roughly 10 per cent of male American children who are diagnosed as having "attention deficit syndrome" because they misbehave.

That troubles me, yet it is acceptable," said Professor Rose. But recreational drugs cause great moral outrage."

Yet, he said, heroin was legal in the 19th century, and Coca-Cola used to contain cocaine. Susan Greenfield, of the Uni-

versity of Oxford, who is also a specialist in brain function, said: "There is a perception that any particular molecule used as a drug has a built-in function, and it only affects a particular when you take a drug - whether ries prescription or otherwise - it tog Bluebells hold hope

Bluebells and daffodils contain proteins which could form the basis of new drugs for com-

bating HIV, the virus which can cause Aids, researchers an-

nounced at the British Associ-

ation, writes Nicholas Schoon. The hope is that these pro-

teins, known as lectins, can be developed into compounds

which block a crucial phase in the lifecycle of the virus - the

point when it recognises and attaches itself to human immune

cells. This attachment is the prelude to the attack which

eventually wipes out the im-

mune system and causes full-

blown Aids, leaving victims

A team from Liverpool John

Moores University and the nearby Daresbury Laboratory

in Cheshire has been using X-ray beams to discover the

structure of various lectins, in

the hope that they can learn how

they block the HIV virus and

David Hargreaves and Adrian

North of the University of

Leicester revealed that the

lyrics of pop songs can have

more meaning than parents think. "The degree of pes-

simistic content in the lyrics of

songs in the US pop charts was

prey to infection.

marinates the brain in that chemical. Your brain is not then working as normal.

Prozac, a prescription drug, has been implicated in unusual behaviour. In one case in the United States, a depressive who had been taking Prozac ran amok with a gun and killed a number of his colleagues. The effects that eestasy has on the brain and body are poorly understood, partly because it is not possible to carry out controlled trials because it is illegal.

At the start of a three-day session on brains, minds and consciousness, Professor Rose argued that "we are at a point in history where, probably for the first time, neuroscience is confronting public policy. But where do we look for the explanations to behaviour?"

A growing number of scientists suggest that genes determine brain function - leading to what Professor Rose calls "neurogenetics". He says this idea is misleading and leads people to believe that such disorders as violence, alcoholism, compulsive shopping and homelessness cannot be cured socially. Instead, they seek to develop drugs as therapy, meaning that "we are moving towards the world envisaged by Aldous Huxley in Brave New World". In that everyone takes the drug soma to find tranquility.

Instead, he said the science needs theories to connect molecular biology - which can now picture and analyse brain activity at the level of nerve cells - with psychology, which analyses social interactions. "We have the technological tool box, neural network in the brain. But but we lack overarching theories of the brain to put the lot

Flower power: Blocks virus

why some lectins are more ef-

"The results so far are

breakthrough but we still have a lot of work to do," said Pierre

Rizkallah of the Daresbury

Laboratory, owned and run by research councils. He estimat-

ed it would take at least another

five years before the scientists

would know whether a lectin-

played in a restaurant - though

as Dr Hargreaves observed: "No

music would be better than the

'wrong' music." Anyone sick of

hearing Tammy Wynette would

Leading article, page 15

would probably agree.

based drug was a possibility.

fective than others.

Suicide link to

for HIV remedy



Brain drain: Scientists are concerned that the increasing prescription of powerful drugs will produce long-term problems

They escaped from war, ethnic cleansing and torture and came to us seeking a safe haven. We turned them out to beg on the streets.

Refugees are people who have often survived the most appalling experiences, fleeing from war, ethnic cleansing, terture or terror.

Some arrive in our country after having been forced to watch their relatives being murdered and their homes destroyed.

They come to us seeking a safe haven.

in asking for asylum as refugees, they are exercising their legal rights, guaranteed by the United Nations.

As a result of the recent Asylum & Immigration Act, more of these vulnerable people are not destitute on the streets of Britain with nowhere to live, no food and no money. Whole families, including victims of torture, have been condemned to what the High Court, which tried in vain to protect them, called "a life so destitute that no civilised nation can tolerate it".

The situation is dire. There is literally no accommodation in the United Kingdom available to these asylum seekers who have been barred from claiming benefits, and have no money to pay rent. Yet

Only last week, at our Day Centre, we had a young man who had been tortured in Iran and suffers from severe spinal injuries. Another came to us in despair. His kidney had been damaged by soldiers

These vulnerable people have nowhere to

At our Hight Shelter, asylum seekers can find

these people and utter destitution. They've already suffered enough. Please use the coupon to give as



many of these people urgently need help.

go and no-one to turn to. They need our protection and the Refugee Council is doing all it can to help.

much as you can. Thank you.



D-I-V-O-R-C-E shelter and food. It will cost as £20 per person per night to run. Our Day Centre provides asylum able to predict economic re-cession, said Dr Hargreaves. CHARLES ARTHUR seekers with a het meal, washing facilities and the I want to help the Refugee Council's work with asylum seekers. "Gloomy lyrics predicted a downturn in consumer opti-Listening to country music can chance to find triends. Through July and August give you the blues so bad, you mism, which in turn predicted may even take your own life. At Here is my donation of: the state of the economy." least so say studies in the Unit-The lyrics of country songs, Dr Hargreaves noted, "often we have been feeding fifty people a day, including ed States, which have discovered £50 £25 that when more country is children. Money is so short that there have been dwell on several themes - heavy played on the radio, the suicide alcohol consumption, loss of a Picase make year cheque payable to 'The Refugee Council'. rate among white males goes up times when the feed has simply run out and we Or debit my credit card: Access / Yisa / Amex / CAF (please delete as apprepriate) loved one - which are predic-- and the effect is independent tive of suicide." But this could mean that potential suicides of variations in gun ownership, poverty and divorce rate. Inhave had to turn hungry people away. seek out stations playing counstead, it seems to be the "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" rate which try - a genre which offers such uplifting, feelgood titles as Tve We want to make sure that this never happens determines that final decision. Got Tears In My Ears From Lying In Bed Crying Over You"again. Please will you help with a donation? Though scientists are not yet able to explain the phenome-non, they have discovered othrather than that the songs di-£5 will provide two hot meals. £250 runs our rectly induce the act. This is er areas in which music affects what the scientists call the "lis-Day Centre for a day, providing up to 100 people our behaviour. For instance, fast tening situation", and Dr Har-greaves noted that "any attempt music in a store makes you shop with advice, hot meals, clothes and medical attention. to explain people's responses faster, but in a wine cellar, classical music rather than Top 40 must take account of this." 24 HOUR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 0171 582 3660 Your generosity is all that stands between music induces you to buy more However, science is as yet unexpensive bottles of wine. able to predict what might hap-At the conference yesterday, the refugee council (CHARITY NO. 1014576) pen if country music were

Please send to: The Refugee Council,

ROOM 65J, FREEPOST, LONDON SW8 1BR

PEACE OF MIND

TUC wants a minimum of £4.26 per hour People on low pay: Who gets what

JOJO MOYES and BARRIE CLEMENT

In defiance of the Labour Party and warnings from the Tories of a million job losses, the TUC yesterday carried a motion backing a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour.

Better news for Labour however came from the CBI, which although arguing that the TUC figure would cause 100,000 redundancies, agreed to serve on the Low Pay Commission envisaged by Tony Blair, which would take evidence and advise the government on a minimum.

The resolution passed by the TUC at its annual congress in Blackpool yesterday was dismissed as "predictable" by employment spokesman, Ian McCartney.

In order to lessen the embarrassment to Mr Blair, the TUC also passed a resolution in support of a minimum rate of £4 as "reasonable". A third decision means no figure would be recommended by the TUC un-

til after the election. There were appeals for unity and calm during a heated debate as unions expressed their support for the two figures.
John Edmonds, of the GMB, which supported the £4 figure, said that despite unprecedent-

ed support among voters and

businesses for a minimum wage,

the unions were embarking on They are nervous people,



A question of money: A security officer at the M11 extension in east London. He gets £3.30 an hour, working a 72-hour week Photograph: Brian Harris

these politicians on the eve of an election. If we over-reach ourselves we know what will happen," Mr Edmonds said. "The party leadership will rubbish our figure, some of the Labour WHAT'S
THE CHEAPEST
WAY TO
COMMUNICATE? THE LINK

movement will cry betrayal and not only will we damage our chances of getting a decent minimum wage, we might even damage the Labour Party's chances in the next election.

A rapturously received Arthur Scargill, leader of the Socialist Labour Party and president of the NUM, who supported a figure of £4.26, said the TUC had become known as go for £4.26," he said. That fig-

the "fudge factory". "I'm fed up to the back teeth with people telling us not to rock the boat before a general election ... let's exert our independence and

fire brigades union and the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers. Gwen Macleod, a machinist for Pretty Polly paid between

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES EARNING LESS THAN __ (1,000's) 397 149 185 1057 £2.50 434 1637 £3.50 Part-time 661 1254 416 780 2355 12.50 1524 3367 2096 £3.50 Part-time 1058 1873 £2,50 3412 908 £3.50. £2.50 33.8 17.5 10.5 60.0 45.9 RETAIL TRADE 32.6 WAITERS 16.7 CLEANERS Source: Richard Dickens & Stere Machin, The Centre for Economic Performance, LSE

£4.20 and £4.30 an hour, accused union leaders of "testing

their virility Before both motions were overwhelmingly carried, John Monks, TUC general secre-

tary, stressed that the TUC was not attempting to impose a figure on the Labour Party. The Prime Minister said a minimum wage would "hurt the Meast

Postal leader rejects Blair

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Despite his own private misgivings the leader of the postal workers yesterday brushed aside Tony Blair's call for a ballot to end the dispute at the Royal Mail.

Alan Johnson, general secretary of the Communication Workers' Union, said that the conflict was "not a matter for the Labour Party'. Referring to criticism by both Mr Blair and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Irade, Mr Johnson said: "Comments by politicians come thick and fast. We're quite used to it. We don't need anybody to teach us lessons on

how to conduct our affairs." thought the package on offer from management was "rea-sonable" and that it should be recommended in a ballot of

Mr Johnson took the same line as the Labour leader at a meeting of his executive on Tuesday and was once more overturned by his colleagues.

By a majority of 14 to 9 the union's postal executive decided to intensify action by calling employees out on Friday 20 September and Monday 22 September, thus spreading the

disruption over the weekend. Mr Johnson is known to believe privately that a settlement should be recommended. In public he represented the views of his executive. The union is resisting the introduction of "team-working" as part of a range of efficiency mea-

■ Leaders of the RMT transport union predicted "yes" votes in strike ballots among guards and catering staff at eight train operating companies to be announced today. The operators concerned are Anglia; Cardiff: Gatwick Express: In City West Coast; the Island Line: London, Tilbury and Southend; South West Trains

and Thames Trains. Stoppages were ahead yes-terday at ScotRail; North West Regional Railways: Regional Railways North East; and South Wales and the West.



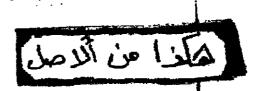
Innocent until proven guilty... Are children really as depraved as they've been painted? Blake Morrison looks behind the myths of modern childhood

Karla's people: Leslie Colitt on the secrets of the world's greatest spymaster

Plus: Helen Fielding enjoys the high life, Michael Bywater just loves the low life, and Robert Cushman gets to the bottom of Harold Pinter

IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

CELLNET DIGITAL MOBILE F The Link has a huge range of mobile phones and communications products to choose from There are unbeatable offers every WORTH OVER 290 week to make talk cheaper, and expert, friendly staff to help you choose. And right now, you'll find even more amazing bargains in The Link Sale, so hurry down today. Panasonic 6400 FREEPHONE 0500 222 666 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND TO ORDER DIRECT CORDLESS PHONES - SAVE # £10 Mobile Phone Up to 80 minutes talktime/ 爾拉斯 14 hours standby SALE PRICE Sharp CLS150 Speaker phone base unit 10 number automatic dialling Send and Paging facility receive short Geemarc M400 messages • 2-way intercom Low cost tariffs and local **BT** FREESTYLE 1100 £129.99 Digital technology gives you call clarity and privacy ANSWERING MACHINES Use outside the UK **FAX MACHINES** SAVE # £25 **BT** RESPONSE 50 SALE PRICE BT DF50 **Motorola** m301 Digital Mobile Phone •Up to 70 minutes talk £9.99 IURRY! LIMITED STOCK time/12 hours standby 99 name and number £34.5 _E199.5 Orange Motorola mr1 Digital Mobile Phone • Up to 60 minutes talktime/ti hours standby Betacom solo Samsung sf30 SALE PRICE E5 £24.99 £189.59 9.59 NE RENTA FREE TRAVEL PACK BT RESPONSE 100 usually £39,99 **Sharp** ux70 £49.55 £229.55 EZO document feeder • 15 number auto-matic dialing Sony 444 Mobile Phone SALE PRICE TELEPHONES - SAVE £10 **9**99 •Up to 80 minutes talk time/20 hours standby INE RENTAL •99 name and number PHILIPS PACE 100 SAISHO LADY 100 وَوِّدُ71عَ FOR 3 MONTHS Tone/pulse dialling Last number redial £14 55 THINK EXPERT ADVICE BACK GUARANTEE The Link When you connect to Orange, "When you connect to One 2 One, Price without connection £99.09." Excludes cells to other mobile phones, "When you connect to Talk 60. "When you connect to Orange," When you connect to One 2 One, Price without connection £99.09." Excludes cells to other mobile phones, "When you connect to Talk 60.



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cts Blair

Measure for measure: jeans get a custom-made code



Any woman who has walked up and down the high street in search of a pair of jeans that stays up without beh and braces, or doesn't require an excruciating squeezing session to do up. will welcome the latest marketing move by Levi Strauss, the US jeans manufacturers.

In what is thought to be the first project of its kind in Europe, women can order customised denims, as Levi's pilot a "Personal Pair" scheme in their flagship store in Regent Street, London, and in Sheffield. Shoppers will be able to walk into the stores and be neasured for a pair of personally tailored jeans.

This is not a venture into the world of haute couture for Levi's, but rather a marketing concept known as "mass customisation". Under the scheme,

a woman's measurements, name and address are fed into a computer. Customers then try on jeans from Levi's pool of more than 300 prototypes. The measurements are then amended to ensure a perfect fit.

The process should take around 20 minutes. The customer's details are sent to the

Glenda Cooper reports on a new jeans-by-computer look for British women

Levi factory in Belgium, where computer-controlled tools pre-cision cut the jeans, and stitch an individual barcode inside. The jeans are then sewn and washed, identified by the code and shipped to the customer's home or to the shop where they were bought. The whole process should take around 21 days. But there is a premium - the tailored jeans will cost £65 compared to

£46 for a standard pair. If the scheme proves as popular here as it has in the United States and Canada, Levi's will consider offering the service across Europe, and extending it to include men.

But the fashion sceptics are not enthusiastic. "If I was being unkind I would say it was a gimmick," said Eric Musgrove, associate publisher of FW Magazine (formerly Fashion

Weekly).

If I was being kind I would say this was just an extreme ex-

ample of giving good service to

Mr Musgrove sees the scheme as part of a wider trend where jeans companies offer a range of fits and leg lengths, as well as cuts specifically for women: "In the last three or four years there has been much greater awareness that you can't get young women to buy men's baggy jeans, particularly as a much slimmer look has come

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into fashion. "Historically and socially jeans have come a long way. Gianni Versace now has a line called Jeans Couture, which is a contradiction in terms. Jeans are acceptable in virtually any social situation, and that is reflected in the price. They can cost in excess of £45 to £50."

But he was unsure that the Personal Pair scheme would catch on in a big way: "I think it is for women with odd body shapes," he said.

Banks' student loans deal collapses

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Government plans for a twintrack student loans scheme run partly by the banks have been abandoned, ministers announced yesterday.

to be implemented this October, year because of problems in arranging the deal.

Now financial institutions will be invited to "buy" part of the existing debt and the administration of the existing is wholly owned by the Govloans scheme could be contracted out. Students will still be Treasury. The twin-track able to take out loans on exactly the same basis as before.

future the banks would take on much of the cost of running student loans, but the banks were initially sceptical about the idea. Barclays, The Clydesdale Bank and National Home Loans did eventually bid for the contract, and had been expecting an announcement at the end of July. Yesterday they said they were shocked and disappointed at the Government's change of heart.

Last night some of those involved speculated that the banks might have been demanding more guarantees than were on offer. The Government tried to set up a loans scheme involving the banks seven years ago, but on that occasion they

pulled out. Making the announcement Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said that £2bn in outstanding loans had built up availability of funds," he said.

since the scheme was launched in 1990. The Government aimed to transfer the financial risk from the scheme to the private sector, but it was hard to identify in advance how such

changes could come about.
"We have concluded that in The proposals, originally due the immediate future our longterm goals can best be achieved had already been delayed for a through the sale of part of the existing student debt and the strategic contracting out of the administrative work of the Student Loans Company," she said.

The existing loans company ernment and funded by the scheme would have given students the choice of a govern-Ministers had hoped that in ment loan or one on the same terms from a bank.

Last night the loans company's chief executive, Colin Ward, said the failure to strike a deal reflected the efficiency with which it was able to do the

"Our cost-effectiveness had to be matched, and obviously the banks haven't been able to reach a deal with the Government. We take a positive feeling from that, and it is our intention to continue with our extensive programmes to in-crease that efficiency," he said. A spokesman for Barclays said the bank was disappointed

by the decision. We believe our proposals would have brought benefits to students in terms of quicker turn-round time on application, improved access through our 2,000 branches and faster

with every first class business return

"One who follows a carrot may not be a donkey. But one who does not, is surely an ass."

E. CANTONA.

DAILY POEM

Enypnion

By Peter Redgrove

A bee in the library Of elm books and oak books, Holly shelves, Ivy shelves, The dreamlike slumber in books;

Polishing the windows of the drowsy-house That open to and fro One sees out of the leaves;

I open the book and its honey runs over, The supple binding polished with beeswax, The dark-veined pages, The whispering leaves Inscribed with sentences that hum In the amber twilight,

A gentleman's library In which to drowse That is full of Virgil Who has retired. Who has finished with all Heroes larger than beesize

MIS WILKING ENIN VI (IV.

The Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 1996 has just been awarded to Peter Redgrove. It is the culmination of a string of awards, ed to reter recognove. It is the cummatuou of a string of awards, the Cholmondeley and Prix Italia among them, for a poetic output that has spanned three decades. Redgrove is a comoutput that has spanned three decades. plex and sometimes impenetrable poet, the deft hand of the surrealist masking an integrated and consistent vision of the universe in which man ultimately plays a minor role. A new collection - from which this poem is taken - Assembling a Ghost will be published by Cape in November (£7). Redgrove will be reading during the Poetry International festival at the South Bank, London, 25 October to 3 November.



*Free ticket is a standard class Eurostar return. Offer applies to business first and premium first tickets that are issued in the UK for travel on or before December 31st 1996. Free ticket travel must be completed by 31st March 1997 and is subject to availability.

Tory activists told of poll's glittering prize

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

John Major has privately told party workers that the prize awaiting the winner of the next best economic prospects since the First World War.

Speaking to party workers and supporters at a private dinner, the Prime Minister said he did not want "woolly thinking"

to throw away the opportunity facing the Tories. His speech, filmed by a Saatchi and Saatchi team for use in the election campaign, showed the main Tory campaign attack against general election will be the Labour that the voters risk throwing it all away. This ignores evidence in the Independent that the rising public debt will force the next government to consider tax increases. But

Mr Major told the faithful at a

hotel in Bristol that he wanted wider role for grant-maintained I don't wish that to be thrown tion at the next general election the next five years of Tory gov-schools, selection, streaming, away." The next election would will inherit the best and most seernment to concentrate for the first time on social policy, law and order and changes to education. He promised legislation in November to introduce minimum sentences for sexual and violent crimes, burglary and drug dealing, which would be far more severe than those handed down over recent years.

On education, he wanted a

schools, selection, streaming, the return of grammar schools and single-sex schools. "I would love to see in the next five years legislation dominated from the family view upwards, not the bureaucratic view downwards,"

Britain was enjoying low in-flation, low interest rates, and stable growth. "That is the message I would like to get over on every doorstep, God help me -

away." The next election would be a watershed like 1979, when the Tories came to power. The 1983, 1987 and 1992 elections were not watersheds. "It is true in 1997. Although I must not give you the date of the election, do not go on holiday in the spring," Mr Major said.

"It is true next time for this reason - the party that wins the devolution, which would break

cure economic prospects of any incoming government for the past 70 years. That is the prize."

Mr Major said Labour presented themselves as "bornagain moderates". But he attacked the Social Chapter which Labour would sign for threatening jobs, and Scottish up the UK. "The opportunity

for this country if we build on what has been gained by what we have done and in a sense what the country has suffered over the last five years, is limitless. What a tragedy it would be if woolly thinking were to throw away so much of what has been achieved in the last 17 years, and the opportunities that lie ahead in the next five." There was still the chance of

winning back support to the

Tory flag which had existed in the past, he said, and he privately appealed for the support of his party and MPs in getting the message to "those peoplewho have a stake in this country who would lose if there was a change of direction. I do not say it lightly when I say there is more at stake ... than there has been for many years past. That is the message we have to go out to the country with."

V

On the stump: Labour targets West Midlands businesses and industry as the John and Norma show go calling on Avon

JCB boss and men in suits join Blair fan club

ANTHONY BEVINS Political Editor

Leaving behind the back stabbing rows at Blackpool's Trades Union Congress, Tony Blair yesterday flew to the West Midlands to win the high praise of one of the country's biggest private industrialists.

On a swift visit to industry and business in the region - taking in boardroom, shop floor, business park, and a behindcounter stint in a Coventry Mc-Donald's - the Labour leader hit the ground running after the party's stumbling performance

with the union barons.

As Mr Blair regurgitated the sound bite of the day for the umpteenth time - "Unions will make claims, employers will make claims; we govern for the whole country" - an aide commented: "We turn every crisis into an opportunity."

Having been presented by the Conservatives as a man at the mercy of the unions, Mr Blair used the day to display the fact

that he was nobody's patsy.
The opportunity to deliver that message was offered by Sir Anthony Bamford, chairman and managing director of JCB. Founded by his father, JC Bamford, 50 years ago, the company now has sales of more than

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helicopter to his Staffordshire factory outside Uttoxeter, Sir Anthony endorsed the Labour leader: "He's a very refreshing

But Sir Anthony, former president of the local Conservative Association in Burton, a Tory marginal seat, and a donor to the Conservative Party, went signifhe might one day make a contribution to the Labour coffers

government." Later, realising his mistake, Sir Anthony added, "If they are elected. If." Mr Blair was quick to exploit

JCB as an example of the enterprise he wanted to encourage: high investment, strong on training and a shop floor partnership between the union and an enlightened manage icantly further. Asked whether ment. "It's how most trade unions do work," he said. On the shop floor, where

£700m. Flying Mr Blair down. he told The Independent: We I . We is the excess of £6 an from Blackpool in his company wait and see how they go on in hour, the men in blue overalls ap-

said they would wait and see. Mr Blair found greater warmth among an audience of businessmen at the opening of a new private business park in Coventry, where a number of men in suits told him they would be voting for him.

"Relations with business have heen completely transformed. We talk to more business people than the Conservatives these days," Mr Blair said. The tour ended with the huPhotograph: Tom Pilston

peared enthusiastic. But some man touch. Having driven a JCB earth shifter off the production line in Staffordshire, Mr Blair went to a McDonald's, where he served milkshakes - without charge - to a couple of mothers.

It might not win the votes of those he meets, but it certainly wins much media coverage to sell the message of the day. "We are going to get beyond the damaging battles of the past," he told local BBC radio, "and offer a better, more just, more prosperous future.

Major sends autographs flying like confetti

COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

John Major yesterday said that Labour's lead in the opinion polls was "flaky". Standing on the dockside near Bristol he insisted the tide was turning against Tony Blair's New Labour Party.

"A change of atmosphere is becoming apparent everywhere, up and down the country. It is a while before it is reflected by the fashionable opinion form-

ers," he said. If autograph hunters decided the outcome, Mr Major would be home and dry. He handed out signatures like confetti at the Sovereign shopping mall in Wehe went on a walkabout with his

The John and Norma show was delayed for nearly two hours while Mrs Major visited the printers in Frome to get hold of the first copy of her latest book, a history of the Prime Minister's country residence. Chequers, to give to the Queen at Balmoral at the weekend.

But the shoppers waited patiently to meet the Prime Minister, emphasising that Mr Major and his soap box remain the Tory secret weapon. Few of the autograph hunters in the Tory constituency held by Jerry Wiggin appeared to be com-

mitted voters for the party. J One housewife said she was going to vote Liberal Democrat having voted Conservative all her life: "I can't bring myself to yote Labour but voting Liberal Democrat is the only way I can protest."



The anecdotal evidence in some of the key marginals is that the Liberal Democrats may gain but they could be squeezed, helping the Tories, if enthusiasm grows for Mr Blair. At the moment there is little sign of that.

John and Norma signed Tshirts for two men who said they were from a local alcohol and drug rehabilitation unit. "I voted for Maggie Thatcher in 1979 and I am going to vote for Mr Major. It's always been that way," one said.

Emerging from the media scrum, Janet Lambard, a Green Party voter, said: "I don't agree with anything he says but I still respect him as Prime Minister. would rather have him than Tony Blair."

Bill Gibson, 58, who runs a small gift shop on the front, said the Government had lost the

support of the elderly who are a predominant force for the Tories in retirement resorts. "It's lack of action and lack of confidence," he said.

The demand for the Prime Minister's autograph raised the question why they wanted his signature if they were not going to vote Conservative? He is undoubtedly popular pressing the flesh but there may also be a shrewd market demand for his signature while stocks last.

Mr Major is learning trade craft before the camera crews and he refused to be interviewed squinting into the sunlight at a photo opportunity. There were rumours that he was suffering from a hangover after partying with local supporters. His aides insisted that he was given two painkillers for a different reason - he had a pain in the neck.

O

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It's extremely surprising to have anything you publish used by

somebody else virtually word for

word. Our lawyers are in touch with McDonald's lawyers. Mc-

Donald's didn't ask our per-

mission or approach us at all."

A spokeswoman for Mc-Donald's said: "They are sug-

gesting that we have perhaps taken the idea from Top Tips

We say we haven't. Our cam-

paign is called "Money Saving

Tips." We just took the concept

of weird and wacky ideas. Our

creative people went to a num-

ber of books and publications

to get the ideas. Viz was not one

of them. Some of the ideas were

just taken from jokes people had

McDonald's over TV money tips

DAVID LISTER

Arts News Editor "Don't waste hundreds of pounds on expensive carpet. Simply buy two small pieces attach them to the bottom of your feet and get that quality carpet feel throughout your home." This is one of the "money saving tips" in the current

television commercials for McDonald's, the burger chain. "When out shopping, gluc carpet tiles to the soles of your shoes. They make Sainsbury's feel like your living room."
This is one of the "Top Tips" published by Viz magazine, the cult comic, in 1987 and included in a compilation book in

Lawyers representing Viz are now studying the McDonald's campaign and have written to the burger company's lawyers

expressing their concern. In the McDonald's radio permission to use the tips. campaign listeners are counselled on how to "save money on expensive binoculars". They are told "to stand closer to the thing you are looking at and

then it will seem bigger". In Viz issue 36, published in May 1989 and then republished in a compilation paperback, was the following Top Tip: "Don't waste money buying expensive binoculars. Simply

stand closer to the object you wish to view."

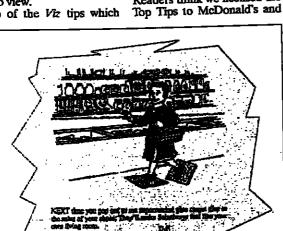
found echoes in the McDonald's campaign were next to each other on the same page of the Viz issue of March of this year.

One McDonald's commercial is almost exactly the same as a Vi: Top Tip, only using the phrase "second-hand shop" instead of "Oxfam". Vi: tip in March of this year was: "Save a fortune on your laundry bills. Give your dirty shirts to Oxfam. They will wash and iron them and you can then buy them back for fifty pence." The money saving tip from McDonald's urges: Save a fortune on laundry hills. Give your dirty shirts to a second-hand shop. They'll wash and iron them and then you can

buy them back for 50p." Two other "money-saving tips" in the McDonald's campaign bear remarkable similarities to the Viz Top Tips, leading some Viz readers to think the magazine has given McDonald's

One Viz reader in Glouces ter has written to Viz with a new Top Tip. He advises: "Geordie magazine editors, continue paying your mortgage and buying expensive train sets ... by simply licensing the Top Tips concept to a multi-national

burger corporation."
Viz's publisher, John Brown of John Brown Publishing, said last night: "We're actually getting quite a few complaints. Readers think we licensed the



Old joke: One of the "Top Tips" published by Viz which bear a strong resemblance to McDonald's new TV commercials

Tale of chivalry tops BBC drama

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

EW FANTASTIC

The Hammer horror legend The Hammer horror legend Christopher Lee is spear-heading BBC television's £184m drama schedule for next year with a chilling performance in Sir Walter Scott's 19th century classic novel

Ivanhoe.

Lee, 74, plays the arch villain Lucas De Beaumanoir in a £6m adaptation of chivalrous derring-do set in the time of Richard I, centring on Saxon and Norman earnity and the battle for the hand of Rowena.

The six-part serial is the BBC's flagship production for the coming year and Lee's portrayal of the Templar Grand Master is described by the corporation as "simply superb". The Last of the Mohicans actor Steven Waddington takes the title role, and Victoria Smurfit

as Rowena and Susan Lynch as Rebecca complete the love Ivanhoe, written by Scott in 1819, is yet another classic

success of the "Pride and Prejudice effect". It is due for

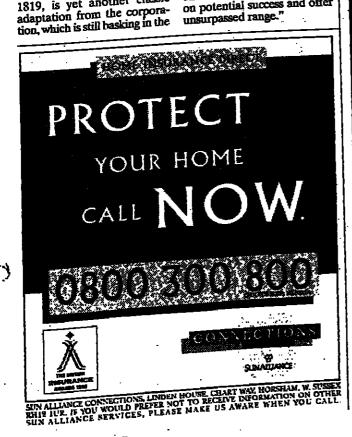
broadcast early next year. Intriguingly, Salman Rush-die's Booker prize-winning novel Midnight's Children is to be turned into a six-hour drama serial, to be shot in India next year. And another costume drama, an

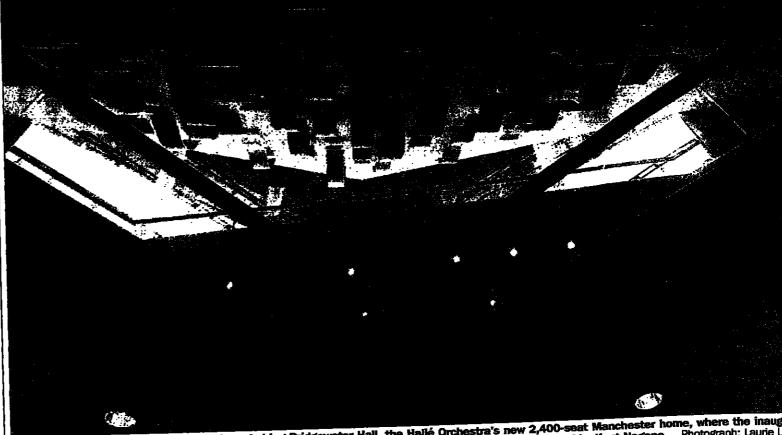
adaptation of Henry Fielding's Tom Jones, is also on the cards.
Also recommissioned for eight more episodes is Bally-kissangel, which attracted audiences of almost 15 million in its Sunday evening slot last year.

A total of 13 series have

been recommissioned, including Hetty Wainthropp Investi-gates, Hamish Macbeth and Common As Muck. Ruth Caleb, acting head of BBC TV drama, said: "We are delivering successful programmes on a scale which has the chiefs at ITV under insing pressure from their ad-

vertisers. Fortunately we are answerable to our viewers and not to advertisers. The BBC's unique funding enables us to take risks, build on potential success and offer unsurpassed range."





First impressions: Early visitors yesterday admiring Bridgewater Hall, the Hallé Orchestra's new 2,400-seat Manchester home, where the inaugural concert last night was to feature the world première of



You'll find the peaches next to the tuna.

If you think shopping is a chore, imagine what it's like when you're blind. How could you tell the difference between a tin of peaches, or tuna, or even dog food? Small wonder that many blind and partially sighted people find shopping so difficult they avoid going alone. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) believes loss of sight shouldn't lead to a loss of independence. So RNIB trains supermarket staff to understand the needs of blind and partially sighted customers. We can also give advice on layout and lighting in supermarkets, as well as the design of packaging. Shopping may always be a chore, but it should never be a challenge. If you know someone who may need RNIB's help, or wish to make a donation, please call us on 0345 023040.

Royal National Institute for the Blind

challenging blindness

IMRE KARACS

The glittering symbols of Switzerland's wealth are piled in the vaults of the capital's most imposing building, the neo-classical National Bank on Berne's Bundesplatz. The gold ingots which underpin the world's hardest currency have until recently been a source of national pride but now they are beginning to lose their lustre.

It turns out that some of the gold is stained with the blood of Holocaust victims. The Swiss parliament, pressed by the US and Britain, is to set up a commission of historians to investigate what is left of the Nazi loot. There is quite a lot, ac-cording to Gian Trepp, who has written a book on the Bank for International Settlements and

its dealings with the Nazis. He said that the German Reichsbank sold SF1,700m of bullion to the Swiss National Bank. "It was only in Switzerland that the Germans could buy foreign

Some of the gold was legal Reichsbank property but most was plundered from the occupied countries. After the war, when the Swiss struck a deal with the Allies to hand over the

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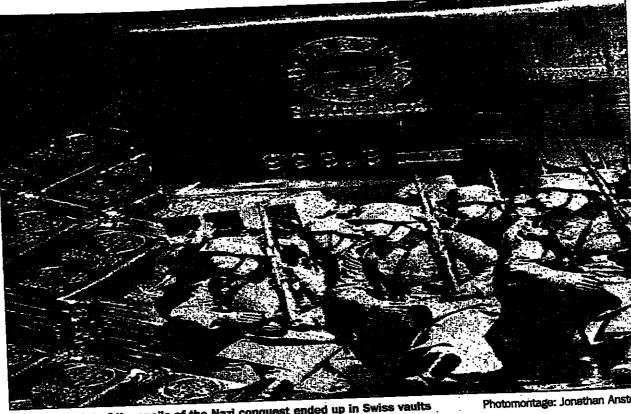
4.4 GROSS CU.FT STANDARD FRIDGE EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

loot, they came up with a tiny 'estimate of their illegal hoard. The Allies collected SF250m: the rest remains in Berne.

They [the Swiss] were perfectly aware that it was stolen gold," Mr Trepp said. Among material never returned was 58 tonnes of bullion from the Belgian central bank, large amounts from Italy and the Netherlands and a smaller quantity bought from the Pruss-ian mint. The Prussian ingots contained gold from the teeth of Auschwitz inmates. The authorities, it seems,

have been ignorant for the past five decades of the source of their banks' wealth. "The establishment - the politicians and the finance sector - wanted to know nothing," said Oskar Scheiben, a journalist, whose paper, Zurich's Wochenzeitung, has been trying to expose the banks' dealings. Historians dismissed his disclosures and politicians declined the temptation to delve into the murky past. Those seeking the gold were denounced as agitators.

Even now, as US archives disgorge documents detailing Switzerland's wartime trade, Berne remains silent. "The Swiss government has nothing to hide," said a spokesman.



Gold rush: A lot of the spoils of the Nazi conquest ended up in Swiss vaults

to Holocaust survivors years ago

but Jewish groups argue that the

gnomes of Zurich are reluctant

to yield their treasure. We know

the money is here but nobody

knows where it is," said Iolan-

da Gross, a social worker. "Only

today we had someone from

We cannot comment on these

allegations." Since the ingots do not reveal their origin, any attempt to separate German state property from Nazi loot is likely to be almost impossible. Apart from bullion, Swiss bank accounts are still believed to shelter deposits made during the war by the

Nazis as well as their victims. Both should have been handed

account. Finding the lost accounts is the task of Hans-Peter Haeni, the ombudsman appointed last year to mediate between claimants and the banks. Since last September he has collected 2,300 names and sent them to the banks in two batches but

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

France looking for his parents has yet to get a reply. There are

said. "We need more time." The historians to be appointed by parliament will also take time on their research. They are expected to report their findings next year - 52 years after the end of the war.

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tigation, assisted by the congress, is focusing on a secret Letters, page 15

US calls for veil of secrecy to be lifted

DANIEL JEFFRIES

The US government has joined the growing international hunt for hidden Nazi gold. It is ex-pected to demand that Swiss banks over-ride their strict rules of secrecy in the search for assets stolen from Holocaust

Officials in the US State Department, US Treasury and Department of Commerce confirmed yesterday that they began an investigation six months ago after the World Jewish Congress discovered that Swiss banks may have received more than \$7bn in stolen Jewish assets in the Second World War. Pressure is building in the

US for a full accounting by Switzerland of its relationship with the Nazi government and its practice of accepting what were clearly stolen goods, ac-cording to secret US Intellince documents obtained by the congress. "We know the Swiss have accounts which contain stolen Jewish property," Elan Steinberg, its executive di-rector, said. "We don't know exactly who it belongs to but it

clearly is not the Swiss banks." The US government's inves-

fund that would be worth \$2ba in today's money. The fund was established to help finance the resurrection of the Nazi party after the war. The US and the congress suspect that some money in that fund, stolen from Holocaust victims, may have been funnelled to prominent manufacturers such as Volkswagen, Leica, Zeiss and Krupp Steel. The congress is awaiting answers from all those companies in response to inquiries it

made in June. The congress found out about Swiss complicity in "cloaking" stolen Jewish assets after being given full access to the American national archive, which includes all US intelligence gathered on the matter during the war. One secret US document opened for the first time this week revealed that some of the gold discovered by the Allies in 1945 at a salt mine, totalling more than 800 ingots, was obtained from melting down the gold fillings of Holo-

"That fact alone is enough for us to push this enquiry until we have the full truth," Steinberg

Red Cross officials in Switzerland may also have be involved, he added.

Romania brings back ban on gays

Central Europe Correspondent

Less than two months before a general election. Romanian parliamentarians have outraged human-rights activists by seeking to recriminalise homosexuality between consenting adults.

An overwhelming majority of MPs in the lower house would like to see the reintroduction of legislation originally passed under the Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, by which homosexuals could face up to five years in jail.

The London-based human rights group, Amnesty International, condemned the proposed new law as "a backwards which, it rall



iliescu: Must give approv

tian Radulescu, of the opposition Democratic Party, said A combination of the ruling Social Democracy Party, nationalists and the opposition Peasant Party ensured an overwhelming victory for reinstatement of the law in a parliamentary vote on Tuesday. The decision has to be approved by the Senate and President Ion Iliescu, which is unlikely to be

completed before the elections in early November. Much of the pressure for the law has come from Romania's Orthodox church, which condemns homosexuality as "the tyranny of selfish, harren passion". At its instigation, hundreds of thousands of Romanians have signed petitions calling for a return of

the ban. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, all other countries in the region have decriminalised ho-





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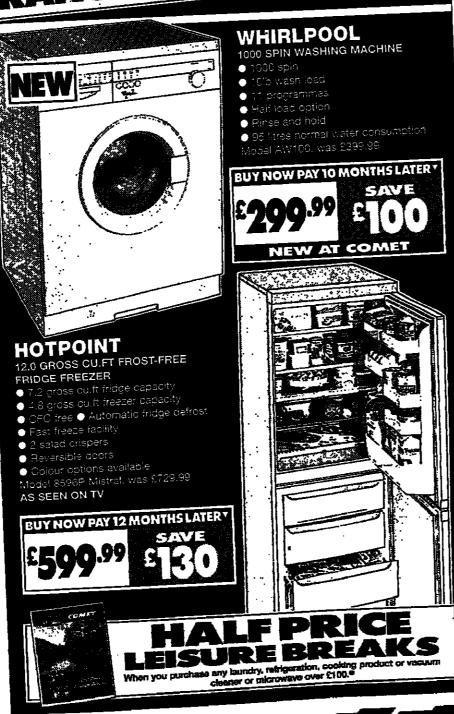
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Rescue workers fight to get one-year-old Cassandra Gomez to safety in Puerto Rico as floods caused by Hurricane Hortense left at least eight people dead and thousands homeless. The child, her father and three siblings were rescued after being cut off in a house for nine hours. Her mother was reported missing Photograph: AP

Fall of Afghan city could spell end for Kabul

RAYMOND WHITAKER

The balance of power in Afghanistan's 18-year civil war may have tilted decisively following the reported fall yesterday of Jalallabad, the country's pain eastern town, to the rebel Taliban militia.

A Taliban commander told Afghan Islamic Press, a news service based in Pakistan, that they had taken Jalailabad, capital of Nangarhar province, and its airport from forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani. The news service said this had been confirmed by its sources in Jalallabad. Earlier, a government spokesman admited the airport had fallen and that fighting was raging in the town, 60 miles from Kabul.

The seizure of Jaialiabad by Taliban, which controls nearly half Afghanistan, would tight-en the encirclement of Mr Rabbani's government. The next target is likely to be Sarobi, the main town between Jalallabad and the capital. It is a strong-hold of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who besieged Kabul for more than a year before joining forces with Mr Rabbani after the Tal-

iban's appearance on the scene.

Jalaliabad had escaped the devastation suffered by most of Afghanistan's towns by remaining out of the fighting among the movements which drove out the Communist regime in 1992. A coalition of factions ruled the area, whose relative stability attracted refugees from other parts of Afghanistan. Kabul's forces moved into the town to try to head off the Taliban advance. but apparently too late. The Taliban, which has besieged Kabul for the past year, has pledged to install a purist la-lamic order throughout

Argnanistan.

Pakistan denies helping the
Taliban and says it has no
favourites among the Afghan
factions, most of which it helped during their war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Before the battle for the town began, an apparent peace mission ended in the death of the Nangarhar governor, Engineer Mahmood, and six colleagues. shot dead while driving towards the Pakistan border.

AIP said the group seemed to be heading for peace talks with Taliban leaders. There was no immediate information who was responsible. Mahmood, a commander of the neutral Hezb-i-Islami faction of Maulvi Mohammad Younis Khalis, died hours after he had been appointed acting governor of Nan-garhar, A Taliban source in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, who did not want to be identified, said Mahmood had been in contact with the Talihan and had wanted to hand over Jalallabad peacefully to the

B-52s on alert after Iraqis fire at US fighters

poised for further retaliation against Saddam Hussein, after Iraqi forces yesterday fired a ground-to-air missile at two US fighters in the northern nofly zone, and an Iraqi jet and helicopter both breached the "no-fly zone" in the south of the country.

"We reserve the right to take action to protect our pilots," the White House spokesman, Mike McCurry said, while the Pentagon said that the US "will take action" if its aircraft come under threat. To underline the warning, B-52 bombers like those used in last week's cruisemissile strikes against Iraq have been moved closer, from their hase on the Pacific island of Guam to Britain's Indian from the State and Defense de-Ocean base of Diego Garcia. partments that President Sad-The US has also moved F-117 stealth bombers to the region, the Defense Secretary, William Perry, told reporters.

According to the Pentagon, the F-16s were attacked by a single Soviet-built SAM-6 missile. The missile missed its targets, but Iraqî radar was turned off

Politics has always been dirty

work, and nowhere more so than in Russia. But even the

cleaners were appalled about

just how fifthy a business it has

become behind the stately walls

of the Duma, the nation's par-

So outraged were they by having to clean up on the morn-

ing-after-the-night-before they

fired off memos to their super-visors which paint a horrifying

picture. Excerpts published by

the newspaper Moskovski Kom-

somolets reveal that, while the

PHIL REEVES

Moscow

Becomean

xport Agent

so quickly that the US aircraft had no time to return fire. But mouse continued between the language emanating from Baghdad and Washington, so seemed to leave little doubt that the omission would soon be made good.

The incident took place at mid-morning Iraqi time, 3.58am Washington time, midway between Zakho and Mosul in the northern, Kurdish-inhabited portion of northern fraq. An Iraqi military spokesman said Baghdad's forces had launched three separate attacks against "the criminal American enemy and those who are taking part with it." But the Pentagon detected only one missile fired.

Further evidence that Washington is preparing the ground for a new series of attacks against Iraqi targets are the Iraq to deter further aggression highly publicised accusations and shore up US credibility. dam is now rebuilding various air-defence installations in the south that had been destroyed by the 44 cruise missiles launched in last week's two strikes. New radar units had been brought in, officials say, implying that fresh action might be required to eliminate them.

ıma cleaners dish the dirt

by night it becomes the venue

Despite numerous security

guards and metal detectors at

the building's giant doors, crime flourishes within. "Door knobs,

locks, toilet paper, soap, glasses, cups, electrical hand dryers, telephones, mirrors - all dis-

appear with horrible rapidity," said the paper. Lavatory roll dis-

pensers have been stolen so of-

ten they are not now replaced.

she had been ordered to clear

up faeces in a hall. Sofas appear

to be doomed - chunks of

One cleaner complained that

for sex and drinking sessions.

Duma shapes the laws by day, them as if someone was mak-

leather have been cut out of few disputed they were true.

and domestic political reper cussions of the renewed challenge from Iraq. Officially, the US insists that its earlier attacks have hamstrung the Iraqi leader in the south, where he poses the greatest strategic danger to Western interests.

But complaints are growing that President Bill Clinton has acted neither strongly enough nor in the right area to counter President Saddam. Senior Republican spokesmen like Senator John McCain of Arizona, a foreign-policy adviser of presi-dential candidate Bob Dole, argue that the US must inflict disproportionate damage on

And, Mr McCain and others claim, President Saddam's real power lies in his army and especially the Republican Guard. not with his air force and air defences. Thus far however Mr Dole has avoided direct criticism of Mr Clinton's handling paign from the news headlines.

ing a jacket", the paper said.

Accounts of brawls, gun-tot-

ing parliamentarians and all-

night boozing sessions have

emerged before. But this time

the problem appears not so much to be the 450 members of

parliament as their 10,000 or so

such a number that the Moscow

city authorities have com-

plained that the public transport

Duma's cleaners. Officials quot-

ed yesterday quibbled about the

details of their allegations but

Nor, it seems, can the

system can no longer cope.

sistants. They have swelled to





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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Job cuts pose autumn threat of discontent

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

Lazy summer is turning into turbulent autumn in Europe as trade unionists angered by national austerity policies and high unemployment prepare to take on their governments

A storm of labour unrest is athering in France, Germany. Italy and the smaller EU countries. Depending on its duration and intensity, it could weigh heavily on the European Union's plan to launch the single currency, the euro, on

schedule in January 1999. Last weekend 240,000 workers marched through six German cities in protest at the attempts of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government to impose austerity measures and other reforms, such as making it easier for companies to sack employees. In France, the seven main civil service unions called last Tuesday for a day of protest and strikes in mid-October as a way of mobilising resistance to government

spending cuts and job losses. The unions representing Italy's 1 million metal workers plan to stage a strike on 27 Sepember to force compensation for falls in real wages. More in-dustrial unrest is possible as the centre-left government of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, prepares a 1997 budget that will aim to cut borrowing by 34.2 trillion lire (£13.7bn).

One common factor linking France, Germany, Italy and most other EU states is the determination of their govern-ments to cut budget deficits so that they qualify for Emu under the Maastricht treaty terms. To be a founding-member of the

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3 per cent or under of gross domestic product.

Some leeway above 3 per cent will in all probability be permitted, because recession-induced unemployment benefit payments and sluggish tax revenues mean that most EU states are well above the Maastricht target. This leads to another common factor across Europe: relentlessly high unemployment, ranging from more than 22 per cent in Spain to 12.5 per cent in France and

The Maastricht criteria could drive Europe into recession'

10.2 per cent in Germany. What is angering trade unionists and left-wing political parties in EU member-states is not the single currency project as such, but the fact that the Maastricht timetable is leading govern-ments to pursue deflationary policies, reduce benefits and allow unemployment to stay high when their economies seem in need of a boost.

John Edmonds, leader of the GMB union, told the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool on Tuesday: "Taken alone and applied rigidly, [the Maastricht] criteria could drive Europe back into recession and force unemployment upward."

However, like other union leaders around Europe, he said he feared the consequences for his country's prosperity and international influence if it did not

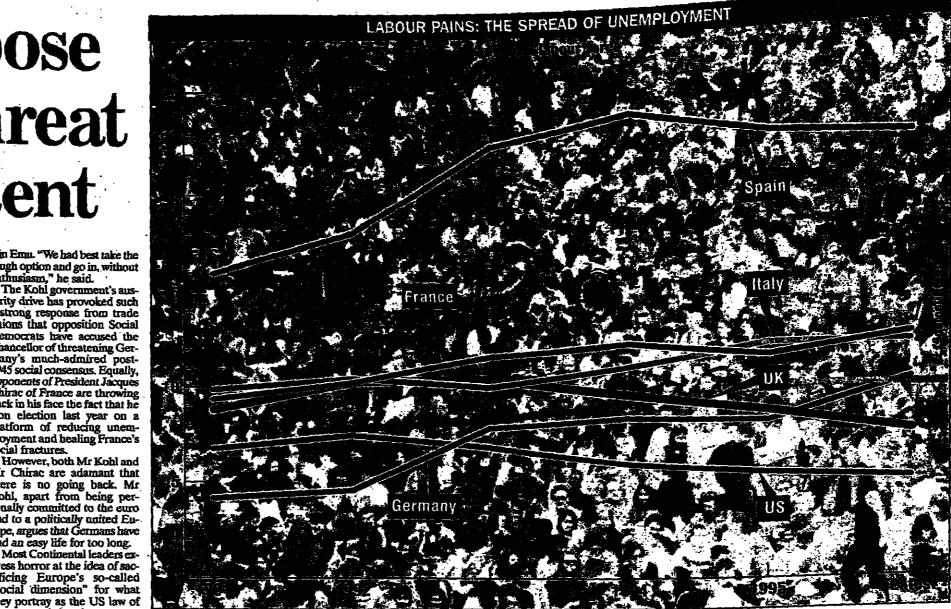
single currency, a country must join Emn. "We had best take the have a 1997 budget deficit of tough option and go in, without tough option and go in, without sm," he said.

The Kohl government's austerity drive has provoked such a strong response from trade unions that opposition Social Democrats have accused the Chancellor of threatening Germany's much-admired post-1945 social consensus. Equally, opponents of President Jacques Chirac of France are throwing back in his face the fact that he won election last year on a platform of reducing unem-ployment and healing France's social fractures.

Mr Chirac are adamant that there is no going back. Mr Kohl, apart from being per-sonally committed to the euro and to a politically united Europe, argues that Germans have had an easy life for too long. Most Continental leaders express horror at the idea of sacrificing Europe's so-called "social dimension" for what they portray as the US law of

Somewhat ironically, it has been left to some of Europe's leading industrialists, bankers and rightist politicians to state the case against a 1999 launch for the euro.
Jacques Santer, the President

of the European Commission, loses no opportunity to argue that monetary union, by making the single European market more efficient and productive, will ultimately be a job-cre-ator. However, that is small consolation for Europe's 18 million unemployed, and the many millions more in insecure jobs who are increasingly associating their predicament with the Europe-wide belt-tightening necessary to launch the euro.



Santer: argues Emu will create jobs in long term

Rites, monetary wrongs and the sacred text that leads to economic salvation

ANDREW MARSHALL

Before it is possible to get to grips with Europe's problems over jobs, budgets and a single currency, the language has to be penetrated.

Making the grade for a single currency is like getting to heaven, and the whole process has a slightly religious sound to it. The key text is the Maastricht treaty. No one who is anyone calls it that any more, by the way, the cognoscent tend to refer to it as the Treaty on Euro-

pean Union, or TEU for short. Maastricht lays out the path to monetary salvation in exhaustive (and largely incom-prehensible) detail. It makes little sense because all sorts of level of economic performance bits are out of chronological as the top EU countries.

order, and the whole thing has to be read before any of it makes sense (if then). But here, for what it is worth, is the deal:

We are now in the Second Stage of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), which is the bit in between not having a single currency and having one. Soon, the EU hopes to enter the Third Stage, which is monetary union. That might be in 1999. It might be a while after that before we all use the same notes

and coins; that, properly speak-But the only countries which can enter monetary union are those that have achieved Convergence. That means that they have attained roughly the same

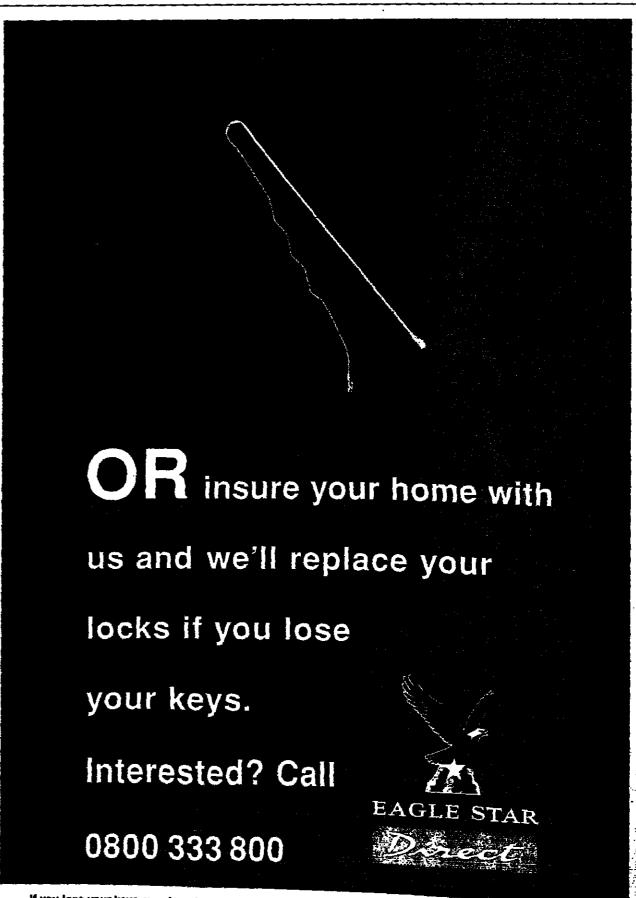
Countries can tell whether they bave achieved convergence by referring to the Convergence Criteria which are annexed to the Maastricht treaty. These are targets for inflation, the exchange rate, budget deficits and national debt. Meeting the convergence criteria means cutting back public spending. bringing down inflation and keeping the currency as solid as

Critics of monetary union say that the process will involve too much defiation - reductions in government spending. They think that the Maastricht treaty is too much a central bankers charter, and want other things taken into consideration. In

Convergence. That means looking at economic growth and unemployment. EU-literate critics talk about the need for greater Cohesion (which means ensuring the EU sticks together, and doesn't exclude poorer nations from a single currency) and a Social Di-mension (which means keeping unemployment down). To boost these laudable ends, the EU has already got the Social Fund (money) and the Cohe-

sion Fund (more money). After monetary union, countries such as Germany are just as keen to maintain pressure on wayward countries to keep their economic haloes bright. They argue that it is very important particular, they want to see the to have Stability, which mean EU take note of Real keeping budget deficits low. to have Stability, which means





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The public seemed resigned

to a bout of austerity. "A large majority of our fellow citizens have recognised that changes

are needed in order to secure the future," Mr Kohl said, cit-

ing a survey showing that 64 per cent of Germans agree that pub-

Assuming that the govern-

no means certain that Ger-

down 1997 budget will have to

of the soaring cost of

be pruned a little more because

AUSTERITY EUROPE

Kohl hits jobless in move to save monetary union

IMRE KARACS

The battle to save Europe's common currency moved to the floor of the German parliament yesterday, as Chancellor Helmut Kohl rallied his troops for one final attack on the government's bloated budget.

Rising above the cacophony of heckling opposition MPs and the distant rumble of trade unionists protesting outside, Mr Kohl warned that Germany had to submit itself to a painful cure, otherwise it would go out of business. "Dramatic changes in the world economy require change in an economy like Germany's," he said in the Bundestag debate on the 1997 budget.

Next year's performance will qualify or disqualify European Union member states for monetary union. But whatever other member states can do to massage their budgets, without Germany the scheme would have to be postponed beyond the scheduled launch date of

After busting the Maastricht treaty criteria for two successive years, Germany's budget deficit for 1997 hovers perilously close to the 3 per cent ceiling set by the treaty. In order to avert the calamity of accidentally scup-pering EMU, Mr Kohl is trying its severest test tomorrow, when the austerity package comes to push through parliament a back from the opposition-dompackage of cuts amounting to

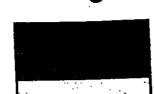
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some DM70bn (£31bn). pensions, sickness benefit and desrat, and now Mr Kohl needs job-creation programmes, ag-gravating the plight of the 4 mil-lion people already on the dole.

But if the programm Mr Kohl, who had promised to halve the number of jobless by 2000, insisted yesterday that he had not abandoned his fight against mass unemployment. and, despite the country's dire economic plight, Mr Kohl's mains central in our policy.
But accelerating growth alone coalition parties maintain a narrow lead in the polls.



is not sufficient and therefore lic expenditure savings are we need our 50-point austerity package," the Chancellor said.

But independent economists, the opposition and the trade unions have accused the government of ditching social concerns in a mad dash to meet the Maastricht criteria. The unions organised a wave of strikes to admit that the slimmedearly in the summer, and have pledged to carry the cause to the streets. At the weekend, a quarter of a million people marched in several German cities in protest against the programme.

The opposition Social Democrats are also trying to whip up the public with claims that the government was out to make the rich richer at the expense of the poor. "A govern-ment that wants to scrap wealth tax while postponing a rise in child benefit should be voted out of office," said Oskar La-fontaine, the Social Democrats' leader.

Mr Kohl's wafer-thin majority in the Bundestag will receive its severest test tomorrow, when inated upper house, the Bunome DM70bn (£31bn).

The proposed savings will hit lensions, sickness benefit and an absolute majority, which is

But if the programme clears that hurdle, there is little the unions or the opposition can do to thwart the Chancellor. Elections are not due until 1998, and, despite the country's dire

Juppé battles to tighten belts and raise spirits

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French government faces two different and largely opposing demands in setting its 1997 budget. It has to convince international markets and the Germans - that it can meet the single European cur-rency criteria on time. To do this, it must make progress towards reducing the domestic deficit to 3 per cent of gross do-mestic product.

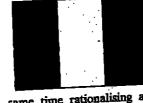
It also has to fend off rising discontent in disparate sectors that could, a majority of the French believe, cause a repeti-tion of last winter's industrial unrest. To do this, the govern-ment has to plant a "feel good" - or at least a "feel better" - factor in public opinion.

This is why an "austerity" budget, that will reduce the domestic deficit, is needed next year. It is being aggressively pre-sented by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, and government officials as a budget that will lighten the tax burden and foster a rise in consumer spending sufficient to create jobs.

So far, only the most general outlines of the budget have been revealed, mainly relating to tax-ation. These were published last week when a succession of leaks forced Mr Juppé to publish de-tails of what he called "a tax-cutting programme a week before the budget was due to go before Cabinet. The actual Bill, to incinde state spending and re-cepts, is expected to be presented to parliament next month.

The government's central principle seems to be to shift a proportion of state spending on to the individual in the form of indirect taxes and more finely tuned benefits, while at the





same time rationalising and gradually lightening the direct tax burden. Whether the combina tion will encourage consumer confidence to the point where jobs are created and the deficit cut, however, is another matter.

State spending will be pared through cuts in defence and a reform of health and social security. These will take effect from the 1997 budget. In the defence sector, thousands of jobs will be lost in defence related will be lost in defence-related industries and in the armed forces; in the health sector, there are to be caps on GPs spending, a contract system for hospitals, and restrictions on the number of free consultations a patient may seek.

The taxation plans announced by the government last week include a reduction in the base rate, a rise in the threshold at which people start to pay tax, and a reduction in the top rate - all to take effect over the next five years. Against this, however, has to be set the phasing out of special tax concessions for particular professions and for certain popular investments, including new mortgages, life insurance policies and some types of savings. Taxes on alcohol and cigarettes will also be increased substantially.

Each day since the an-nouncement of the reforms there have been leaks about other tax plans. Local taxes, for instance, are set to rise above the rate of inflation - in some areas by as much as 10 per cent suggesting that some central government spending is being delegated to the regions under the guise of decentralisation. Women on maternity leave,

pensioners and people on low incomes or state benefits may be required to make national insurance contributions. Yesterday, another leak said that the government would toughen conditions for receiving state benefits, by assuming

a means-tested sum that should be contributed by other family members. So, for instance, a young person out of work might find that working family memhers were required to con-tribute to his or her upkeep.





Rough ride: Chancellor Heimut Kohl (left) and the Social Democrats' leader Oskar Lafontaine during the budget debate yesterday

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French shake up defence industry

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French government has announced a complete reorganisation of its defence research and procurement operation, designed to make French defence industries commercially competitive and facilitate co-operation within

The restructuring of the Délégation Générale pour l'Armement (DGA) was described by its recently appointed head, Jean-Yves Helmer, as the most far-reaching change since the DGA was formed.

Mr Helmer, formerly head of Peugeot-Citroen's car division. said yesterday that he wanted to bring the principles of civilian industry to France's defence sector, which has long been cosseted from competition.

He offered three main aims: to organise the defence industries so that they could compete on efficiency and quality in the international market; to prepare them to take their place in a European arms agency, which was announced as a French-German enterprise earlier this year but is expected to be joined soon by Italy and Britain; and to cut costs.

The naval shipyards group, DCN, announced annual losses of 7bn francs for last year, far exceeding its annual turnover. and more than 6,000 jobs are to

be lost this year. Other traditional sectors of the defence sector are facing dif-ficulties of a similar order. Yesterday more than 10,000 shipyard workers held a day of action to protest against

The change that the DGA is to undergo, as an institution, is akin to the "agency-isation" of Britain's defence procurement. The complex structures set out yesterday by Mr Helmer, and his pledge that - for the time being at least - no jobs would be lost and that everyone working for the DGA would have a place in the new structure, indicated the government's concern not to aggravate relations with public sector workers but also suggested that the cultural change might be slow to

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New Baltis Bost Torus Detri Clark Chilo Minr Milw Kans Wes Sent Coald Cald A Ho Dies Sick

Teenage love that turned into a nightmare of betrayal, jealousy and violent death



Rupert Cornwell reports on the dream Texas Diane Zamora and David couple who are accused of a cold-blooded murder Graham were the stuff of American dreams - the best and brightest of the small-town

Texas where they grew up, 18en, and then shot twice with year-old sweethearts who had just entered two of the country's

9mm pistol. In tight-knit and God-fearing most prestigious military acadsuburban Texas the crime was emies. As soon as they had grada sensation, but a complete uated they would marry, they mystery. A young man at Mansannounced. They had even set field, where Graham and Jones were at high school, was briefly arrested, but released for lack spend that day in prison. of evidence. As the months Teenage love has turned into an went by police lost hope, until last week the answer emerged more than 1,000 miles away.

American nightmare of betrayal, jealousy and violent death. The tale is so bizarre as Diane Zamora, now in her to be scarcely believable. But if first term at the US Naval confessions they both have Academy in Annapolis, Marysigned are true, Zamora and land, took part in a tell-all ses-Graham face conviction for sion with her two room-mates, premeditated murder. discussing the worst thing each Their victim, according to had ever done. In her case, it police, was Adrianne Jones, a gradually emerged, the answer 16-year-old schoolmate of Grawas that she and her boyfriend ham and like him a member of had committed murder.

the date: 13 August 2000.

They will probably now

the cross-country team. Last No-At first disbelieving, the vember the two had a brief fling. room-mates none the less re-Exactly a month later, the body ported the episode to the Anof Ms Jones was found by a lake napolis authorities. Scarcely at Grand Prairie, a suburb of less puzzled, the Academy in-Fort Worth. She had been beat-

formed police departments around Fort Worth. The unsolved killing at Grand Prairie seemed to fit. Initially Zamora maintained she had made her story up. "to gain sympathy and attention", and in the ab-sence of conclusive evidence she was sent home to Texas.

Then the police interrogated Graham, by now a first-year cadet at the no less blue-riband US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. At first he maintained the murder was a fiction. but after he failed a lie detector test, he confessed. He now awaits extradition from Colorado to Texas. His girlfriend is in jail, in lieu of a \$250,000 (£165,000) bond. And their crime, it is clear, is not one of headstrong teenage passion but of coldblooded, carefully plot-

According to Grand Prairie police, a remorseful, guiltstricken Graham quickly told

Graham's parents' home. Zamora of his tryst with Ms Jones. The fling, he said in his

"purity" of his long-standing re-lationship. And, Zamora is said to have insisted, the only way to expunge it was to remove every trace of it, "if you want to solve this problem, we have to make sure she doesn't exist". And so they devised their plan. On the night of 3 De-cember 1995, Graham arranged to meet Ms Jones and came to collect her at her home in a pick-up truck, in which his girlfriend was hiding. They drove

confession to police obtained by

a Dallas newspaper, was an unclean act that soiled the

to the deserted lake where the killing would take place. The original scheme was to sink Ms Jones' body in the lake. But when Zamora climbed down from the back of the truck and attacked her with a barbell, Ms Jones escaped. Gra-

ham then pulled out a 9mm pis-

tol and shot her. The two accomplices left her body and fled. Police recovered the gun at

With the evidence seemingly so clear cut, Graham's hometown of Mansfield, and Crowley where Zamora lived, are stunned. The couple's American-dream-come-true had featured in the local papers. He was, in the words of his lawyer Dan Cogdell, a "straight-A, pick-of-the-litter kid, who had never done anything wrong in his life". The reputation of Zamora, who appears to have been the driving force behind

the crime, was scarcely less. Graham's lawyer now says his client did not pull the trigger, and that his confession was coerced. Such are the manoeuvrings in murder cases, especially in Texas which seeks the death penalty more frequently than any state. But they will impinge upon the question at the heart of the case. How, for one fleeting indiscretion, could one life have been taken, and two others, so promising, been ruined?

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

United Nations approval of a treaty outlawing nuclear tests was hailed by John Major as "historic". The Prime Minister added that it was now vital to get India, in particular, to drop its opposition to the pact. Britain plans to sign the treaty on 24 September, the earliest possible day. The overwhelming adoption of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on Thesday could make an important contribution to presenting the moliforation of important contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoting international security, said muclear weapons and promoting international security, said Mr Major, but he added: "If the treaty is to be effective, it must command the full support of the whole international community." Renter - London

Two Spanish fishermen were injured when a Portuguese naval patrol boat fired warning shots while chasing a Spanish trawler out of Portuguese waters, bringing a formal protest from Madrid-Portugal, accused by Spain of using excessive force, expressed regret over the incident, but said Spanish trawlers had frequently entered Portuguese waters to fish illegally. The response of the naval patrol boat was "standard practice". Reuter - Lisbon

Armed motorcyclists freed two Israeli prisoners in Cyprus while they were being taken to court in a police car on charges of handling forged bills. The accomplices, car on charges of handling forged bills. The accomplices, also Israelis, cut off the men's handcuffs with clippers and put the prisoners on the back of their motorcycles before the prisoners on the back of their motorcycles before the prisoners of the backwaint to the Turkish held not fleeing through a UN checkpoint to the Turkish-held part of the island, where they surrendered. Reuter - Nicosia

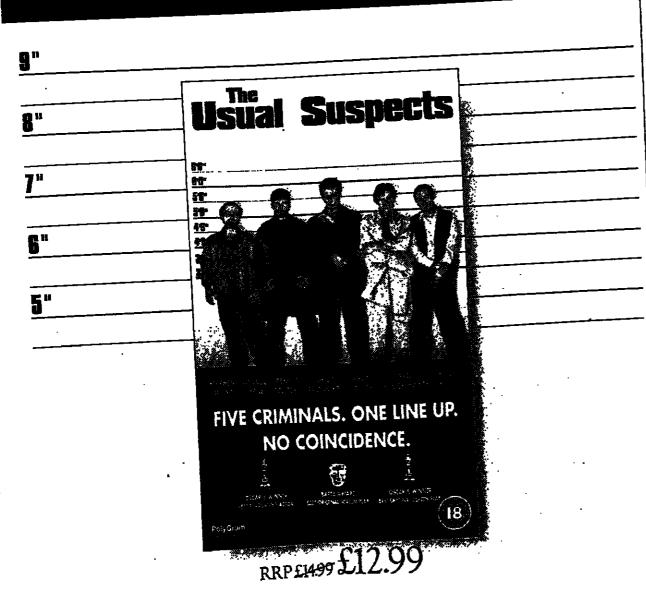
South Africa's post-apartheid army, Major General Marius Oetschig, acknowledged that he gave the order in 1992 to fire in the "Bisho massacre" of 29 black demonstrators. He told Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he had radioed an "open fire" order to field commanders near Bisho, capital of the now defunct Ciskei tribal homeland created under apartheid, when the soldiers were approached by ANC demonstrators. Reuter - Bisho

The biggest of some 80 weapons caches hidden by the United States in the 1950s as a precaution against a possible Soviet takeover of Austria has been uncovered. The cache, buried under a barn high in the Styrian mountains, included 125 grenades, more than 100 firearms and 30,000 rounds of ammunition. The existence of the secret depots was revealed in January by the American ambassador, Swanee Hunt, who handed the Austrian government a list of the sites and apologised for the delay in informing the host country. AP - Graz

Vitzhak Rabin's assassin has been found guilty, T together with his brother and a third religious lew, of conspiring to murder the Prime Minister, Army Radio said. Yigal Amir is already serving a life sentence for killing Rabin at a Tel Aviv peace rally last November. The sentences of the Israeli court in the separate conspiracy case against Amir, his brother Hagai and Dror Adani, will be handed down at a later date. Reuter - Tel Aviv

Amissile warhead exploded at a base in the Russian Far East last weekend because soldiers tried to break open the casing with a harumer in hopes of finding precious metals inside, Livestia reported. All three died when the warhead of a S-125 Neva surface-to-air missile blew up. Some newer models of the warhead do have components containing gold and platinum, but not the older version the soldiers tried to open. AP - Moscow

The Usual Suspects. Pick it out in Woolworths.



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o what if we have a Europe of 16 rather than 15 states; the 16th being the Republic of Padania,

Devolved self-determination should be a very different story. formerly Northern Italy? Who cares if the summer trip to Umbria crosses four borders rather than three?

SHORTS

Umberto Bossi, leader of the North-ern League, has unilaterally decided to proclaim northern Italy independent. With a rival parliament, rallies and demonstrations, spoof banknotes, and even his own green-shirted militia, Mr Bossi is clearly having fun. And in principle there is nothing wrong with the Padania he envisages; an independent Northern Italy within Europe. After all, there is no point in being precious about existing West European borders; most of them have not been in place for very long. On the eastern end of the continent, the Czech and Slovak republics are evidence that it is possible to chop up old countries in a peaceful and sustainable manner. And countries comprising different attitudes and cultures may easily come to more or less separate living arrangements - we need only look at Belgium to see that.

If we apply that principle outside of Europe, an example this week comes readily to hand: for Hawaii to secede from the US (as some Hawaiians now want) might appear to tilt the balance of power in the Pacific, but in fact would create no serious problem. Nor would it threaten the United States federation. If Texas wanted to secede, or

be preferred, so long as people really want it and it does not threaten stability. So if the Italian citizens would genuinely be happier apart, they should have it that way. The trouble is this happy scenario of two friendly bits of Italy, Bossi's Northern League, and the trouble it is stirring up, could be a problem for Europe as well as for Italy, if its cause is not swiftly diffused.

So does Padania pass the stability test? It does not look as if separate Italys would threaten the overall balance of power in the region as a whole. Both countries would stay in Nato as well as in the EU. Nor could a new Padania be accused of the kind of expansionary ambitions that have caused so much trouble with the new Croatia and Serbia. Although Bossi has never explained where the borders between north and south would lie (is Tuscany included, or cut in half?), he and his ilk want to escape the south, not conquer it. And there is little evidence that minorities in the region would be threatened or badly treated. The fears of English-speaking Quebecois for their rights under an independent Frenchspeaking government have proved a sig-nificant obstacle to Quebec's sccession from Canada. In Northern Italy there are few distinguishable minorities. Even the South Tyrolean problem, cause of



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longer a burning issue.

But some potential for violence is emerging. Bossi's greenshirts are trained in the martial arts. Faced with the possibility that counter demonstrations could be organised by southerners, the greenshirt chief of staff was quick to threaten combat. Even more worrying, the Northern League is exhibiting fascistic tendencies. Bossi's own rhetoric is aggressive, not least towards elements of the media he believes are not on his side.

But it is not so much Bossi who should

long-running tensions with Austria over the plight of ethnic Germans, is no devil. The real worry is that the creation devil. The real worry is that the creation of Padania would cause huge tensions within Italy. Imagine it: the rich, sophisticated north swans off with all the cash, enters the European fast stream with Germany and the Benefux countries, and leaves its southern sisters and brothers behind. Separation would not solve the problem, it would exacerbate it.

Were there an overwhelming demand for secession in the north, some accommodation would have to be found. Trampling on the demands of self-determination in the interests of stability and security may not be suc-

cessful in the long term. As Bosnia has testified, trying to keep a country together against its will can create as many problems as it avoids. The north, hard-working and prosperous, understandably resents the southern half of Italy. Despite decades of redistribution, the south remains poor and Mafia-ridden. Southern Italy will have to get its act together if it wants a united future.

But what of the other test? Do the people want it? For the moment, Padania fails this test too. The majority of northern Italians still do not want to leave their existing nation-state. Bossi is declaring independence on the basis of a free election in which he did not even receive a majority of the vote. His highest turnout in any region fell below 40 per cent. Where changing national identity is concerned, even simple majorities are tenuous. If Scotland voted in a referendum to become independent from England and Wales by 50.1 to 49.9 per cent, even the most committed separatists would feel queasy. Bossi cannot even claim to have achieved that. As such his behaviour plays irresponsibly with publicity-seeking fire.

For all the speculation and noise about new states emerging within a Greater Europe - Scotland, Belgium, Padania, Catalonia, the Basque country the true popular demand for independence has actually been rather muted. Each of these regions wants substantial control over its own affairs, a

strong voice in its local union, and some freedom of cultural expression. Once these demands have been satisfied, separatist passions may ebb. In Spain, with its federalist structure, the Catalans are content for the time being to remain within the nation-state, and support for Basque separatism is declining.
People should be released from the

trap of a nationhood they do not mainly accept. But, for all the old tensions still latent around Europe, even its most dissatisfied peoples would prefer gradual and limited devolution of autonomy to being suddenly and rudely tom asunder.

Worse than country music?

he idea that country and western music raises the suicide rate, as the psychologists informed us yesterday, stretches belief - though it's not so hard to accept that fast music makes us shop faster, or eat faster, because that's why the owners of supermarkets and wine bars inflict it on us. The academics would, however, have done more to alleviate suffering if they had inquired into those infuriating tunes that tinkle at you down the phone while you're waiting to be transferred. These could drive people to murder, never mind suicide.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Minimum pay and the effect on jobs

Sir:John Cridland of the Confederation of British Industry (*A blunt instrument that would fail to cure poverty", 9 September) assumes that the only important reason for introducing a minimum wage is to alleviate poverty. He goes on to play down the link between low pay and poverty, promote the CBI's preferred option of extending in-work means-tested benefits and claim that a minimum age will cost jobs. He is wrong on ill counts.

We need a minimum wage to encourage competition based on skill, quality and productivity, rather than wage under-cutting; to reduce staff turnover and improve incentives and morale; to support those whose bargaining position is weak; to encourage social cohesion and, yes, to combat poverty.

In recent years, changing demographic and employment trends have increased the number of wage-earning families that have fallen into poverty. As more and more jobs offer an income below benefit levels, there has also been a dramatic increase in the number of families without a wage-earner. Those that do enter the labour market find they face high marginal tax rates if reliant on in-work means-tested benefits.

Following Wages Councils abolition, pay has fallen in many of the jobs that used to be covered by minimum wage protection. The taxpayer, rather than the employer, is now picking up the tab. Pamily Credit is becoming a subsidy to low-paying employers. The yearly cost of means-tested in-work benefits is already around £3.5bn. Finally, there is no real empirical

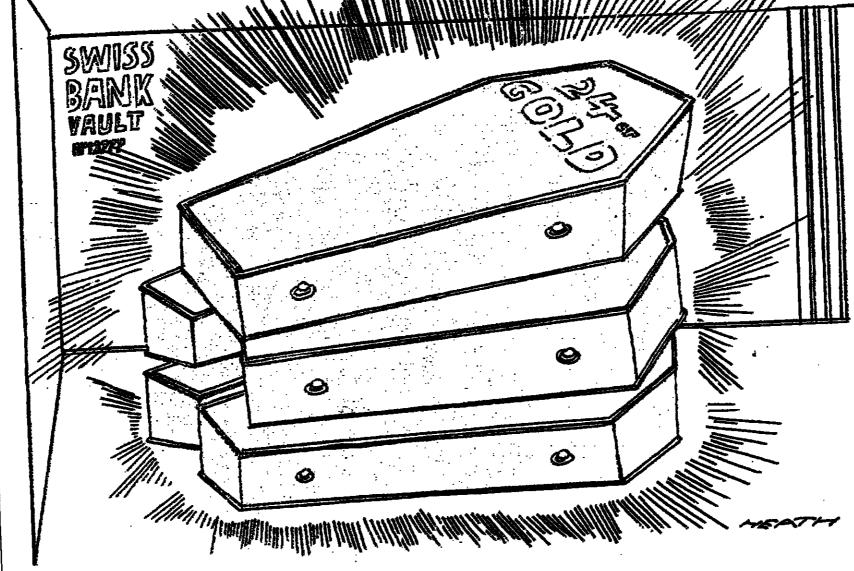
evidence to suggest that minimum wages destroy jobs, though some studies have stated that "high" minimum rates may have a negative impact. Studies in Britain and the United States have found a positive relationship between minimum wages and employment. The key factor is the level of the minimum wage. JONATHAN FRY Yorkshire & Humberside

Low Pay Unit Batley, West Yorkshire

Sir. The politicians and journalists who oppose the minimum wage have one crucial thing in common: they are all on extremely good wages. They simply cannot imagine the financial, physical, emotional and psychological impoverishment of working for anything under £4 per hour.

Have they thought that the imposition of a minimum wage might raise the general level of health, cut crime, and might actually be morally right? To promise every citizen of this country the protection of the law, so that they are not exploited by ruthless employers, should not be a subject of debate, but an aim which inspires national pride. DAVID JAMES Deford

Sir: Hamish McRae is right to suggest ("Small husiness is Labour's business", 6 September) that Labour should pay more attention to small and medium-size businesses (SMEs), correctly identifying them as the job and wealth creators of the future. If it does so, it will find that this sector has a clear view about what is needed to maintain an environment in which businesses



can flourish. Low inflation and economic stability are vital and Labour's commitment to these should be welcomed. Similarly, it is encouraging that the stiffing effect of superfluous and often overzealously enforced regulation has been recognised.

However, a genuinely flexible labour market is also vital for Britain's future prosperity, so there is still much concern at the prospect of a national minimum wage and the possibility that a future Labour government would adopt the Social Chapter. Both of these measures would have the effect of destroying jobs and reducing British firms' competitiveness across the board, but it is the smaller business which would suffer most. TIM MELVILLE-ROSS

Abortion choice

Director-General

London ŚWI

Institute of Directors

Sir. I was saddened to see so many socialists had signed the letter from the National Abortion Campaign (7 September) because abortion on demand so often becomes abortion under pressure for the poor, especially if they are unmarried. In countries as diverse as China and the USA certain types of women have very little "right to choose". Already in this country a woman needs considerable courage to refuse tests which could show she is carrying a handicapped child. The whole philosophy of getting rid of the unwanted, the handicapped and the illegitimate is more fascist than socialist. Dr MARGARET WHITE JP Croydon, Surrey

Moment of truth for New Man

Sir. I don't know where Adrienne Burgess gets her evidence about working fathers from (Letters, 9

September). in my experience, New Man is transformed into an ambitious workaholic just as soon as he discovers how frustrating, noisy and exhausting two or more

children can be.
I would gladly share my "power"
in the home with my husband but he prefers to exercise his authority in the workplace, where he has more chance of being heard. CWIKELEY Romsey, Hampshire

Let Palestinians share Nazi gold

Sir. I wonder if those Jewish victims of Nazism currently seeking their portion of the Nazi gold ("Rifkind to reveal \$7bn Nazi gold theft", 10 September) would consider sharing it with those other forgotten victims of Nazism. I mean the 700,000 Palestinians (and their many more descendants, of whom I am one) who were dispossessed in 1948 to make way for the creation of a Jewish refuge in their country, and who consequently became, so to speak, the victims of the victims.

No compensation has ever been paid to the Palestinians for the loss of their land, property and livelihood. Perhaps in this era of "peace" we can look to a new spirit Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

of generosity towards Palestinians from those many Jews who have never been slow (quite rightly) to vociferously demand reparations for their own losses and suffering. Dr GHADA KARMI London NW11

Etiquette of fax machines

Sir: I wonder whether the new edition of Debrett will resolve a burning issue of the day - what is the correct procedure when a fax addressed to someone else comes through one's fax machine, sometimes using up several sheets of paper?

This has happened to me twice and on the first occasion I faxed the sender. On the second occasion I telephoned, and was left hanging on for several minutes before being asked to destroy the fax. On neither occasion did anyone

see fit to thank me for my efforts and I feel disinclined to bother in future. AGNES SPIER Sheffield,

South Yorkshire Too much, Alix

Sir. Please, please, never again print that grotesque picture of Alix Sharkey capering in a PVC cat-suit (Section Two, 6 September). It has taken me all weekend to recover from the shock. MOLLY GILLIGAN London W6

Sex mix-up in Scottish waters

Sir: Dr Gerry Best of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency is reported as being unaware of any feminised fish in Scotland ("Sexchange waste found off beaches". 11 September).

A 1991 report found that 93 per cent of a population of shrimp-like copepods living near a sewage outlet in the Firth of Forth were intersex "hermaphrodites" - the highest frequency ever recorded for any crustacean population anywhere. Intersex in these creatures is normally extremely rare. Chemical pollution by hormone disruptors must be a major suspect in this Scottish sexual mix-up. RAY DAWKINS Boughton Monchelsea,

Internet ban misguided

Kent

Sir: We believe the recent attempt by the Metropolitan Police to ban certain news groups on the Internet is wholly misguided. We disagree with censorship in principle, and object to the attempt to ban all discussion of sexual matters just because there is some pornography Internet news groups are a system of classification created by the voluntary co-operation of the people who post to them. If some are banned by the Met the material in them will simply flow into other

areas, where it will be read by people who do not want to see it. It is wrong to criminalise

Internet service providers for carrying data that they could not possibly be expected to inspect. Internet news groups carry about 500 times as much information as the works of Shakespeare every day. We will be happy to discuss means of enforcing the law that do not involve criminalising the innocent or censoring Lady Chatterley's Lover once again. ALISTER BULMAN and 132 other signatories Campaign Against Censorship on the Internet in Britain E-mail: cacib@ivision.co.uk

Babies on trains

Sir: It does not surprise anybody nowadays that smokers are placed in a different carriage when travelling by train. Why can't we do the same with parents travelling with children?

As someone who dislikes babies, crying, the smell of nappies, the rhythmical banging of feet against seats and the stupidity of grown-ups talking like silly babies, I had trips to Spain and France ruined this summer. Please give them their own carriage, or throw them in with the smokers: both are damaging to health. MIGUEL VARANA

London NW5

A nose for eyes

Sir. When I see two lunatic eyes staring from a handbag, the first politician I think of is not Tony Blair. STEPHEN BUTTERWORTH Staplehurst, Kent

Churches failing on science front

Sir. I must confess to feeling rather smug on reading Andrew Brown's interesting article "Science, the new religion?" (10 September), for I have all the popular science writers he mentions - and moreon my shelf.

What these writers provide is a world of intriguing fact, as in evolutionary biology, and challenging mystery, as in quantum science, which leaves dogmatic theology looking rather like fossils in a sterile world.

If people are looking to science rather than the churches for ultimate answers, I feel the churches have largely themselves to blame; for while clerics seem at home endlessly bickering over the aftermath of the Reformation, they seem hardly to have noticed anything that comes after the

This would seem to be borne out by reflection on the three great intellectual systems which, according to Braudel's History of Civilization, have shaped our world.

The system of Aristotle the Church sought to accommodate (Aquinas); the second system of Descartes and Galileo the Church sought either to suppress or rebuff with neo-scholasticism; while the third system of Einstein it has not even attempted to understand (the new catechism of the Catholic Church accords two short paragraphs to science, while even angels get nine).

It is understandable that most people now think the Church and science have nothing in common: what is more damning is that for many the Christian faith has become incomprehensible in the light of modern knowledge. FT DOMINIC KIRKHAM Corpus Christi Priory. Manchester

Radio 3 in safe hands after all

Sir: Marianne Macdonald states ("Why we should all pay to keep Radio 3 élite", 11 September) that I believe Nicholas Kenyon to be a Gerald Ratner of the airwaves This is presumably on the basis of a letter which I wrote in 1991, querying his first publicised plans for Radio 3.

He answered my letter convincingly, and time has proved him right. The channel is in safe hands as it celebrates its 50th birthday this month. And so are the Proms, as Kenyon's first season ending this week has triumphantly demonstrated. BAMBER GASCOIGNE Richmond, Surrey

Jingo-free Prom

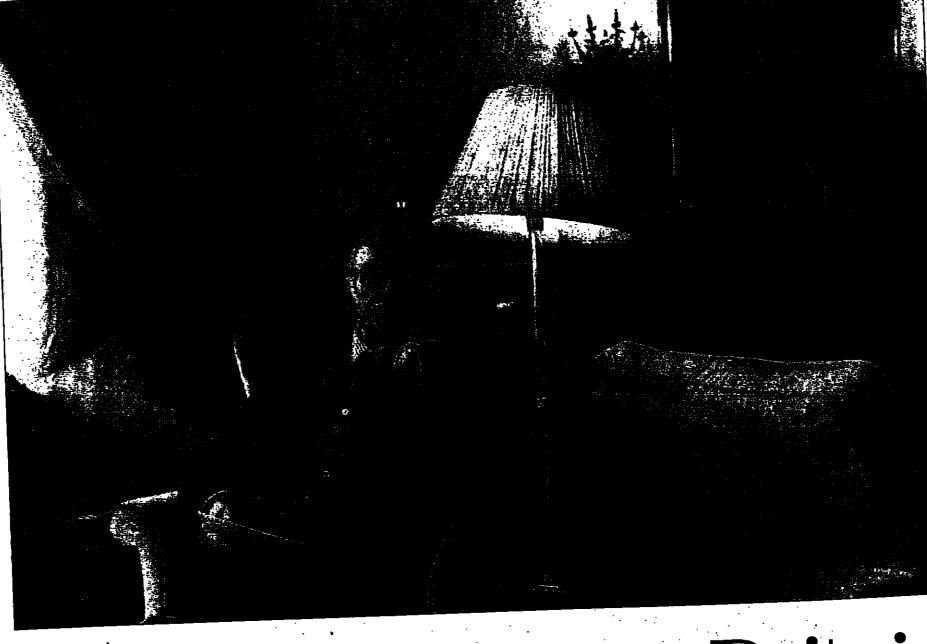
Sir: Several thousand schoolchildren were recently treated to a Junior Prom in the Royal Albert Hall, given by the BBC Concert Orchestra. The concert concluded with Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March no 1, sung to words written by nine-year-old Jacob Lloyd, which concluded: "Louder still and louder, You shall hear us shout, Till there's peace in Europe, And the world throughout."

I felt more comfortable singing this than the outdated jingoistic version we sing at the Last Night of the Proms. DAVID WILLIAMS Bromham,

Bedfordshire

Bio Broken we will be the service of the service of

Sir Alastair Dunnett is one of the most senior figures of the post-war Scottish establishment. He was editor of The Scotsman' from 1956-1972. A staunch devolutionist from the 1960s onwards, here he recants, declaring for



Let's say goodbye to Britain ported by The Scotsman, which with them in a kindly way. If there is any luck going they pushed hard for a European

f, as seems likely, John Major will shortly set out on his pre-election pil-grimage into the English constituencies, he will no doubt declare his loyalty to the United Kingdom, and the disasters that would follow if its concept were ever to be abandoned. He will preach abiding loyalty to this fallacy, but of course it is not a United Kingdom. It is a disunited kingdom, and it is falling apart with every

full-blown

independence

Scottish

month that passes.
I used to believe in Britain; in a United Kingdom that is a united kingdom. This is very far from being what we have now. the way. Nobody but the Scots ever uses the word British. If you ever hear anyone else talk of Britain he is either a politician who has to watch out for the votes, or a businessman who has to mollify the workers in his Scottish branch factory. Or he is a Scot, for we use the word doggedly in the belief that our neighbours will catch on. We are the only ones who are trying to make the British idea work. No Englishman in

his right mind ever refers to independence, equality, the Britain when the word England will do, and the average Englishman thinks that somewhere along the line in his nation's long and not ignoble history they took over Scotland as some sort of subject province. In a way this is what it has turned out to be. The Act of Union is nearly 300 years old. It was a masterpiece of bribery

and corruption. It was intended

to set up a joint parliament of

England and Scotland, but in no time at all it had become an incorporating union, with Westminster continuing as the English Parliament plus a proportion of elected Scots representatives who didn't get very far unless they appeared to endorse specifically, and implicitly, the centralising theories that hold that body together. The name of Scotland has also largely disappeared. This is an inexplicable thing to have happened to a country that was a nation longer than most; that was the basis of our present monarchy; where there were first spoken in all history words about freedom, democracy.

rights of people, and the dignity of Man made in the image of God and other matters of interest and importance to the human race; which is a founder member of Great Britain and a mother country of the Commonwealth; and which in its time has made, out of all proportion to its size and population, significant contributions to all the sciences, all the arts, all the philosophies, most of the sports, many of the innovations, and even a few of the decencies. Despite this, outside of Scotland and in the rest of the world, there is no Britain

for this," Neil Gunn, our writer, once said. "I know that it exists as part of that age-long, and now nearly successful, drive to annihilate all vestiges of the Celt. Any effort on the part of any section - such as Ireland or Wales or Scotland - of the Celtic fringe to form itself into a nation is not merely opposed but bitterly resented, as if it were something in the nature of a betrayal of human progress."

This is the stage of thought that has now been reached by many Scots, it seems. This is what we have to come to. Dr Samuel Johnson, no great friend of the Scots, on his tour of the Hebrides had seen this danger and told one of the MacDonald chiefs: "Your sons will be tamed into insignificance by an English education."

In explanation of Samuel Johnson it has to be said that he came armed with his intellectual apparatus to denigrate and denounce any aspects of independent Scottish culture and styles. After all, he came from the metropolis of London still trembling with the terror they had lately endured when the men of the 45 Rising nearly marched in on them and taken over. As I travel around the world

I hear no ready animosity expressed about Scotland in any of the countries of Europe, nor elsewhere. Nothing in the long sacrifice of our pioneering generations seems to have stored up ill will or given us the name of unreliable or dishonest. And it may well be that with all these Scots already in place about the world we could establish a fifth column of goodwill here at home to carry the flag, and give a new meaning to the name of the Commonwealth.

I have to assert the idea that on sheer grounds of efficiency something of this sort must be attempted soon. Britain is a badly run place, needing the decks cleared, and as I have said almost any system would be better than the one we have now. It has to be recognised that sentiments like this are popularly described, and dis-

missed, as nationalism. I occasionally meet a Scot who will tell me that nationalism is dangerous, leading to wars and strife and the deterioration of good relations between people, while he is himself an internationalist. When a man like that tells me he is an internationalist, I know he is searching for an excuse for having done nothing for Scotland. These internationalists might do well to have a close look at the inter-

they will not yield. One of the great attitudes of mind, which has prevented Scotland for 1,000 years from being utterly engulfed by their flood is this: that the Scots are the only people in the world who have never underrated the English. In any national situation that exists on proper system of government in their own border. Almost the



The author with Harold Wilson and, top, at home

only Scottish problem is the small British Islands, they England.
The English are truly a

their nationalism is of the most they do not come to it by any intellectual nor patriotic conclusion. It is already there, instinctively, in their bloodstream. Everything that is English is right and anything else is a foreign aberration, one of God's blunders, to be treated with amused tolerance or implacable hostility. Fate deals

would be natural and friendly allies and we could do great remarkable people. They are things together. But when the Act of Union comes at last to be rewritten, it will have to be dangerous character because a cautious and safeguarded partnership, for they take their

have it. They have put about

the notion that they are the

masters of compromise. But if

anything ever comes up that

they have decided is their right,

they go and their own set of rules which they want others to adhere to, no matter what has gone before. This must have greatly puzzled Edward Heath, who, in the first, abortive attempt to enter

now gone far beyond the modest devolution case, and am for independence or nothing. clear of England. The English have stirred up animosity for own world with them wherever themselves everywhere. They have offended and oppressed

most of the countries of the world and especially those of Europe. Their enemies are now closing in. The Spanish fishing menace is one of the most recent; the beef threat is the Common market, was sup-

another. Germany and France are both out to clobber them. Even Ireland, whose memories go back far beyond Cromwell to the more recent Black and Tans. Bruton and company will turn and show their teeth one day soon. The sooner we get away from them and into independence the better.

We should be agreeing, as is repeatedly said at the dispatch box and elsewhere, that the economy is growing, the unem-ployment figures are coming down, the export trade is increasing, the inflation fig-ures are being held, and all the rest. The preposterous aspect is that the Tories take all the credit for these achievements. The opposite is the case. They are all the triumphant results of increasing efforts by modest entrepreneurs, in spite of higher taxes, VAT, and the quangos the Government has

iumbered them with.

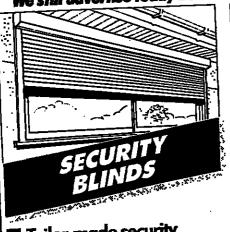
The path to independence is straight ahead. With a likely Labour government in office after the general election, some sort of parliament or assembly should be soon in place. This is only the first step on the road to only the first step on the road to
"the break-up of the United
Kingdom". That is the intention.
It will break up, and high time
too. There will be opposition
squeaks and lamentations that
Scotland in independence will
find disaster and bankruptcy.
This has long since been repudiated. Eminent accountants,
academics, and economics realacademics, and economics realists, of whom we have more than our fair share, have proved that, far from being a subsidised nation within the UK, Scotland presence in the EEC, cammore than pays her way. paigning to have Britain in at the time the Treaty of Rome

It is a tribute to the resilience of the Scottish economy that after 16 years of Tory destruction, and even with the effect of discretionary public expenditure, such as defence and other unidentified spending, in favour of the south of England - Scotland is still able to generate a budget surplus relative to the UK as a whole. and parliamentary assembly for Scotland which his party

Independent Scotland wil be welcomed among the small nations of Europe, many of them recently created and all of them prosperous. The Republic of Ireland is booming, and is able by its taxation attractions to bring foreign investment in My paper, The Scotsman, was to the country. They score or more of foreign the first to promote devolution embassies in Dublin, so -which all Scottish papers have enhancing its capital status. since taken up. We urged that we should go into Europe at the

In our case the Treaty of Union of 1707 will have long since been laid aside. But there will no doubt be a sentiment that a diplomatic arrangement with our large neighbour might be a good idea, although on equal terms this time. There might even be justification for the setting up of a partnership to share convenient services and facilities. In the past we have been dragged in to imperial adventures without having any sort of say in the decisionmaking. This role is at an end. We shall go in to whatever it is on Scottish terms, and strictly for the convenience of Scotland and her people. Once England and Westminster have grasped that they are no longer our bosses, much good might come

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Mention Tony Blair and he will appear

Salman Rushdie in the company of

It's time to ask the hig question again. Where are they now?
Yes, it's time for another look at people and things who were once all over the headlines and have since totally vanished from our consciousness. People such as Graham Taylor and Terry

Miles

Kington

Christian. Things like the Irish peace process and, um, lots of other things I can't remember.

Here we go then, as we look back through the vellowing cuttings of

yesteryear to look at what has happened to:

Salman has, for obvious reasons, spent a lot of time policemen in the last few years. He has become very mpressed with their fortitude and patience, and, often, skill, and the more familiar he has become with police work, the more interested he has become in it. Finally, nine months ago, he took the plunge and actually joined the police. Normally they do not take people who are under threat of death, but it seemed that Rushdie would be ideal for

cover than most people. The clinching argument, for the police at any rate, was that if Rushdie joined the police and became PC Rushdie, he would no longer need expensive fulltime protection, as he would now be deemed able to look after himself. PC Rushdie is at present stationed somewhere in

undercover and plainclothes

operations, as he would be

more likely to preserve his

The first "new" issue of the "new" Punch magazine came out a few days ago. Since then, nothing. Nobody has been talking about it.

Nobody has said anything about it. What has happened? Has it gone into dentists' waiting rooms all over the country and carried on as before? Not quite. What has happened is that people all

have a look through it and say, "Hmmm - not as good as it used to be!" Robert Runcie Runcie is praying for the strength to forgive Humphrey Carpenter.

Humphrey Carpenter Humphrey is getting used to the same joke being told by everyone. Carpenter, you see, has just written another book called The Envy of the World, which is a history of the first 50 years of the Third Programme (and Radio 3), and people keep saying to him, "This book The Envy of the World, is

that all about what Robert Runcie suffers from, then?", or words to that effect. Carpenter does not laugh, mainly because it is not a funny joke, but it is driving him up the wall.

Lord St John of Fawity

was being written. When

Britain eventually decided to

join, they thought the rules

should be changed to accom-

modate them, although the

thing was already a going con-cern. Heath also, in discussion

with some of us, formulated the

ideal of a separate legislative

adopted and then mutilated.

Edward Heath seems to have

sulked out of British politics,

but his considerable contribu-

tion as our only major consti-

tutional reformer of the 20th

ntury is still to be assessed.

time of the Treaty of Rome, and

help to shape it. Instead, the UK backed away and when, at

last, the British wanted in, they

wanted the rules altered to suit

them, whereas the thing was by

this time a going concern. And the Tories are still at it, trying for

late changes. For myself I have

For the present, we want

Lord St John of Fawlty (the former Miss Norma St John Stevas) has been trapped inside his house for several weeks now by a huge crowd over the country are waiting of paparazzi, all shouting for the second issue to come through his letter box and saying things like, "Would out so that they can buy it, you call yourself the Sir Walter Bagehot de nos jours?"; "So do you think a future Queen Camilla is on the cards, then, Norm?"; "Are you the git who inflicted the dreadful gate in Hyde Park on us, you

> Linford Christie Linford is at a sports mecting somewhere in Denmark which ended three weeks ago. He was given two false starts and refused to leave the track. He is still on it. He is getting very thin and

tasteless berk?" and, "Show

us a flash of ankle for the

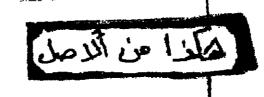
Sunday Sport, darling!"

Princess Diana Diana is waiting to see if the Royal Family can possibly survive without her.

Ross Perot Ross is betting enormous sums of money on himself to lose the next US presidential election. Although the odds are not good, he can't lose. If he loses the election, he collects. If he wins, he won't need to collect.

Tony is pondering on the significance of the fact that "Tony Blair MP" is an anagram of "I am Tory -Plan B!"

The Irish Peace Process There is no such thing as the Irish peace process. There never was, John Major was simply trying to apply marketing techniques to Ireland as he has done to the Labour Party. He thought that if you called Blair a devilish danger, he would become one, and he thought that if you said there was a peace process in Ireland, there would be one. None of them has come true yet.



Hugh Gaitskell Without the dancing?

مكذا من ألاصل

would have been - he would

have simply been proto-Blair. Both those views - the

abuse he received from the

abuse he received from the infantile left after standing up to unilateralism in his spine-tingling "Fight, fight and fight again" speech at Scarborough in 1960 and the idea that he was Blair

before his time - ignore

something important about Gaitskell: not how right-

wing, but how left-wing he was. On this analysis, Man-delson's omission has noth-

ing to do with grandfilial

piety, everything to do the fact that Gaitskell was a col-

lectivist, a Keynesian believer in economic plan-

ning rather than markets,

and committed above all to

the seemingly un-Blair-like concept of Equality. Which is one reason why some unreconstructed Gaitskel-

lites - such as Roy Hatters-

ley - get so cross with Blair.
As it happens. Blair did
use the E-word in a recent

article in the Independent on

he night after he was appointed Labour Chancellor in 1950. Hugh Gaitskell, in New York on a ministerial visit. celebrated by going to a Greenwich Village jazz club and dancing until 4.30 in the another to imagine Tony Blair, or for that matter any modern British politician, with the possible evention. with the possible exception of Kenneth Clarke (for the azz rather than the dancing), doing anything much like that in their mid-forties.

Gaitskell's lifelong passion for dancing in night-clubs, like his unconventional streak and his affair with the socialite Ann Fleming, wife of the creator of James Bond, is a reminder that there were sharp differences, as well as similarities between Gaitskell and Blair. It is curious, as Brian Brivati points out at the end of his dazzling new biogra-phy of Gaitskell, that he isn't even mentioned in the blueprint written by Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle for the first term of a Labour government. After all, it was Gaitskell and his legacy that kept alive the possibility of Labour's even-

sacred

ation

tual emergence as a party of the modern social democratic left. Could it be that in the only election Gaitskell fought, he, too, promised not to raise taxes and went on to suffer a severe defeat? Or could it be that Mandelson has subconsciously never forgiven Gaitskell for wresting the leadership away from his grandfather Herbert Morrison after Attlee stood down in December 1955? After all, was Gaitskell not the first moderniser? Didn't he stun friends and enemies alike by trying to replace Clause IV of the party constitution? Wasn't he also a public-school and Oxford-educated son of a Tory who nevertheless had a close and formative relationship with his Northern working class constituency? Did he not draw some of the same sharp lessons from the 1959 election defeat that Blair did from that of 1992? Is there not an overwhelming sense that Tony Blair has picked up where Gaitskell was forced - by his death at only 57 - to leave off? And does the endorsement of Tony Blair by Roy Jenkins, social democrat and living disciple of Ga not mark the final completion of a circle?

Well, yes and no. History is not quite as neat as that, as Brivati knows. Indeed, it's one of his strengths that unlike his predecessor Philip Williams, who nevertheless also wrote a fine book about Gaitskell a generation ago, he is young enough to be uninfected by the internal party struggles over the bomb and Clause IV in the 1960s. He wasn't even born when some of us, in a shamefully poisonous parody of a civil rights anthem, used to sing on Aldermaston marches: "Gaitskell is our leader/He must be removed/Just like the scum that's floating on the water/He must be re-moved."And he isn't misty-eyed enough about either of the two leaders to assume that if Gaitskell had lived to be elected prime minister in 1964 - which he surely



Donald Macinture

Tony Blair owes much to Labour's first moderniser. Would that he owed more

Sunday in July, saying that But, broadly, this analysis must be right. How could it be otherwise? The post-war consensus was still firmly in place. The industrial and social changes - including the manufacturing shake-out which laid waste Labour's unionised heartlands, were not even predictable, let alone visible. Gaitskell led the party in times shaped by the Attlee government; Blair leads it in one equally shaped by Margaret Thatcher's. To do so he has had to rolf back

that of the Seventies and Eighties.

So part of the difference is to do with the times and not the men. It's futile to play time travel with political history; but Gaitskell might have looked more like Blair had he lived to be Prime Minister. It's true that he was a Euro-sceptic - indeed, it was his opposition to the terms of the Macmillan EEC application which reunited him with many of his old enemies on the left of the party. But he would surely not have let his own followers undermine Barbara Castle's heroic attempt to

much more of Labour's history than merely

reform the unions in 1968-9. But there were also differences which were with personality and not environ Gaitskell's politics were humanist and libertarian where Blair's are Christian and more socially conservative. Gaitskell shocked his mother by marrying the divorced Dora Frost and was as consistent a liberal on divorce as he was an opponent of immigration controls.

And there's one:other trait, one of the most attractive, which has not, at least not yet, emerged in Blair and that was Gaitskell's electrifying passion. Blair is one of those maddeningly rational politicians of a kind which Gaitskell kept saying he was but wasn't. It may be that this is appropriate to the minimalist and politically unemotional present day. But you cannot help mourning the romantic streak in Gaitskell's make-up - and wishing you could see occasional flashes of it once again.

Fame allows West's madness to live on

by Jack O'Sullivan



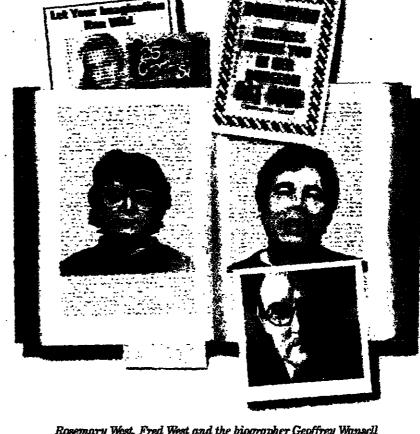
something very special.
There is another doubt about the Wansell book. It has been commissioned by the State - by the Official Solicitor - expressly to raise money for West's children. In short, the details of this horror story have been sold for profit by an arm of the law; the very institution that put the ser-

Rattigan - would have to tell us

ial killer behind bars. Such a bizarre arrangement puts it into a different category to accounts of criminal's lives. Howard Marks, the drug smug-gler, has just published his auto-biography but his consequent prout from crime has not provoked outcry. Likewise, Inside 25 Cromwell St, written by West's children, Stephen and Mae, did not prompt debate about the fate of the proceeds. But the role of the Official Solicitor in Wansell's book providing access to West's own 100-page "autobiography" -leaves a nasty taste. Consideration for the relatives of his victims requires that we are offered more than a state-spon-

sored freak show. However, to be fair, eli s dook e is iis vittiit It delivers a well-documented account of how this mass killer was created; a grim, unglamorous read. An admittedly secretive person himself, Wansell relentlessly pursues the truth through the haze of West's many deceptions.

It is the story of a young Frederick West, sexually initiated and beaten by his mother in a family where incest was accepted practice. From there he roamed, wooing, cajoling and coercing hundreds of women into fulfilling his fantasies. He could charm the



Rosemary West, Fred West and the biographer Geoffrey Wansell

authorities with his inoffensiveness: before his jail suicide, even his prison officers were photographed joking with him. Good old Fred, what a laugh. There was nothing - includ-ing murder - that West could not get away with. And he

ing trawl through the horrors of West's life. More importantly, the book disappoints by not looking beyond a fascination with the story's central characters. It fails to locate the thread that links Fred and Rosemary, their fantasies and their actions, to people like you and me.

tial Fred or Rosemary West lies within each of us. Their upbringings - involving extra-ordinary physical and sexual abuse - and the nature of their relationship places them far down the continuum that links their lives with most people.

But he, and other writers, have avoided that conclusion in their published work. It is not difficult to see why. This is scary territory in which an hon-est man can easily be misrepresented as a sick pervert. Better to leave it alone; better to stick to the theory that there are monsters out there with whom we have nothing in common. For a biographer trying to

you can't escape."

keep some distance from his horrific subject, it is particularly tempting to avoid the personal implications of what he finds. "You have to keep West com-partmentalised," Wansell told me. "If you don't the dangers are so terrible. You are in danger of exploding in every direc-tion. But the task of keeping him compartmentalised is so difficult because there is something in West which encapsulates male fantasy. Perhaps what he reveals is that there is a final compartment within all of us and, certainly within me, that is never revealed."

Wansell said this with the

what Fred West did, we have to ask whether his dark side is

really so foreign to our own; a horrible corner of our minds

which we dare not explore? Still

more disconcerting is the extent to which some of us will read this book and privately, shame-fully, marvel at Fred West's

tenacity, his capacity to deceive, his persistent ability to attract and control women. Who, indeed, will find some of the

story sexually stimulating?
Geoffrey Wansell has danced
with this particular devil. For
months, he has allowed Fred-

erick West into his mind. When I spoke to him this week, he

said: "There is an element of male sexuality which I came to understand as a result of this

book, which is in a sense a West

version, which wishes to take

revenge of women, to abuse

women, wishes to use women as

vehicles for emotion. That is

the uncomfortable conclusion

self-knowledge that comes from 12 years of Jungian analysis. But he doesn't say it in his book. To do so might, perhaps. have been too painful and awkward and have resulted in him being called a deviant rather than simply another oppor-tunist making a mint out of what will be a best-seller.

But until people like Wansell

Some of us will read this book and privately, shamefully, marvel at Fred West's tenacity

his first wife, Rena (a prostitute whom he eventually murdered) and Rose West, each of whom also suffered abusive upbringings and had fantasies he had never even imagined. Together, they went on a wild orgy of sex and violence in which depravity, argues Wansell, was their way of expressing love. And 25 Cromwell St, a lodging house with its constant stream of waits

and strays, was an ideal location. All this is true. But it is little more than we know already and hardly justifies another agonis-

undergraduate days, that she

should wreak this weirdly

The Wests remain monsters, outsiders, not a challenge to our own personal thinking. At most, their ordinariness alerts us to the possibility that child abusers may be found in the most mundane and apparently normal situations. But we have yet to be challenged in this whole affair about what we, personally, share with them.

Some people will be offended at the notion that they might be associated with this vicious, revolting pair. I do not, however, say that a poten-

shared at least some of the fantasies acted out by Fred West? None? Look at what is sold on the top shelves of newsagents. Go into a city telephone box and see the adverts for bondage, sado-masochism and sexual violence. "Mistress awaits you in her dungeon", is just one calling card I spotted this week, an apt, if ironic, description of Rose West's activities in the Cromwell Street cellar.

These messages sell. They resonate in our society. So, although we are horrified at

face the challenge, their books will remain no more than a warning about a darkness out there and a voyeuristic experience for readers. We don't need any more of these books. We need a courageous book that will explore the darkness within.

rating braing. It is Roger from The Guardian asking if I could offer a few thoughts about Amanda Craig. Then The Telegraph is on the line asking if I mind "appearing" in A Vicious Circle, the new novel by Amanda Craig. Next comes Dalya, an exotic young woman from The Times, asking, Is it true, that stuff in Private Eye about you being in Amanda Craig's ...? Soon, Post-It notes cover my desk like sticky snowflakes. "D. Mirror rang. Pls call". "Chap from D. Mail re A. Craig..." Fame at last. After all these

years drudging in obscurity, I'm being lionised because of a fancied resemblance to a character called Ivo Plunge in a roman à clef by a woman who told me, some years ago, "Til get my own back on you for publishing an iffy review of her last novel. Gosh. One digs out a proof copy of the book and reads it. Though flagged as a withering satire on the corrupt literati, it appears to be only intermittently concerned with the reviewing tendency, its bookish chapters interspersed with lots of handwringing about one-parent families, inner cities, the NHS, and the horrid things you find on your stairs ("needles, condoms, bubble gum").

One notes some rather obvious references: the Slouch Club, Merlin Swagg the broadcaster, Ben Gorgle the portly Canadian editor of Grunt", Percy Flage the bload poet, novelist, biographer and commissioning editor (Andrew Motion - do catch up). And shamefully, one looks for oneself in the pages about Ivo, cursing the fact that novels don't carry indexes. One remarks the fact that Ivo has curly hair (me too), that he's a lapsed Catholic, exgrammar school boy (ditto),

former gossip writer turned literary editor (yup) whose father was a doctor (check). One notes with interest that "his friends compared him to Oscar Wilde, largely because of his dress..." [and] "his enemies called him the most dangerous man in London". He is also "famously unsuccessful" with women, whom he routinely and charmlessly assaults with something called the "Sponge

Hmmm. One picks and chooses through all this exciting data, applying whatever shreds of selfknowledge one can summon, and one finally says: Oh blast, it's not enough me. That's the trouble with romans à clef: If you're going to appear in them at all, it has to be as a primarycolour member of the cast, rather than a now-you-see-menow-you-don't wraith. Makes you feel so... insubstantial.

his is not a view shared by David Sexton, the iournalist and former inamorato of the author when they were at Cambridge; he has now written to Ms Craig's publisher, Viking, and got publication of the book suspended. Though a charming fellow in the flesh, Sexton does seem a dead ringer for Ivo's friend, Paul Pinsent ("the nastiest reviewer in London") but also resembles Ivo himself: Ivo is deputy literary editor of the Chronicle (Sunday Telegraph). his boss is a classy middleaged woman called Marion (Miriam Gross), his uber-boss is called Max de Monde (Hastings, until recently), he writes reviews for Private

But what people in literarygossip circles are asking is: what on earth did Mr Sexton do to Amanda Craig back in



elaborate revenge 15 years later? Did he two-time her with another? (But that's what everyone does at university). Did he break her heart? (But Ms Craig radiates selfassurance and has been happily married for years). I think we have to look in the pages of the literary press for an answer. Ms Craig wrote a review of Hilary Mantel's novel, A Change of Climate, in February 1994's Literary Review, and got one or two facts wrong. Ms Mantel wrote voicing a mild complaint. And, some years after last being in touch with Ms Craig, Sexton pounced on it in his silkenly bitchy "NB" column in the Times Literary Supplement in April, where he hinted that Ms Craig hadn't read the book. Amanda then wrote to the TLS a month later, complaining that it was the result of typographical errors and the author's lack of

It was at just this time that Ms Craig was putting A Vicious Circle into shape. Did her alarmingly personal attack date from this encounter? You bet. By the end of the year it was clearly preying on her mind - witness another letter in the TLS (December 1994) taking issue with the magazine on the subject of authors' disclaimers ("All characters in this story are imaginary and no reference is intended to any living person...").

clarity.

id you see that story about the Staffordshire driveways? Surprised householders in Cannock, Staffs, woke up after a rainstorm to find that their newly laid driveways had melted away in a pong of spearmint, because the builders had used "broken

mints" instead of white stone chippings.

One can only imagine the

predicament of the builders. The driveways must be laid. Time is a-pressing. The contractor is complaining. The white stone chippings have failed to turn up. It's 4pm. What should they do? One of them, full of make-do-andmend invention, has a brainwave. Down at the local corner shop, he buys the entire stock of Softmints, Minties, Polos, Trebors, ExtraMints and sends a runner to every other shop in Staffordshire. Then imagine the thousands of packs he and his colleagues had to unwrap, before smashing them to the correct size ~ and then they only went up to the second flowerbed. And have you seen the price of the things? A pack of Mint Imperials is 29p (Polos come a bit cheaper). How can the papers call them "cowboys", as if they had botched the job with cheap materials? On the contrary.

I know of only one similar nightmare scenario, when the buyers of paper at News International tried to haggle with the pulp mills over the price, and refused to buy the vast quantities of paper required for printing The Times and its sister titles until their price was accepted. But the manufacturers refused to back down - and, as the weekend loomed, the Wapping production department were staring at a paperless desert and a fearful prospect: that, if things got any worse, they'd have to nip round to Ryman's and buy up astounding amounts of A4 white (no feint or margin), then Sellotape or Pritt them together and try to bring out

1.28 million copies of the 200-

page Sunday Times on the result.

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Rose Williams

her brother Tennessee. Like a faded Southern belle eternally deserted, she is the model for the withdrawn, disabled "Laura Wingfield" who seeks refuge in her collection of glass animals in The Glass Menagerie. Her brother Tom declares, "Oh, Laura, Laura, I tried to leave you behind me, but I am more faithful than I intended to be!"

Rose Isabel Williams was born in Gulfport, Mississippi, in 1909, the first child of Edwina and Cornelius Williams. Her brother Thomas - Termessee was born three years later. The siblings became as close as twins, as Lyle Leverich writes in his admirable Tom: the unknown Tennessee Williams (1995), "Throughout his life, Tennessee Williams had two overriding devotions: his career as a writer and his sister. Rose." Initially proud of his daughter with her "expressive greygreen" eyes and aubum curls, their father later turned against his two elder children: his relationship with his wife also deteriorated and her resultant bias against sex had a serious effect on Rose and Tom, "that of deep and permanent injury . . Rose would remain a virgin all

As a child Rose was given to telling far-fetched tales of hardpressed family life, "perhaps trying to overshadow her brother's storytelling talents". But Tennessee doted on his elder sister, and felt a sense of betrayal when she entered puberty and began to be interested in other boys:

... At fifteen my sister no longer waited for me, impatiently at the White Star Phar-

macy corner but plunged beadlong into the discovery, Love!

It was additionally a betrayal for Tennessee, who would not come to terms with his own homosexuality until his late

This distorted, dysfunctional background (there was mental illness in both parents' families) inevitably influenced Williams's work. His backwardlooking, over-heated Southern Gothic of regret and frustrated passion is suffused with the spirit of Rose, not only in The Glass Menagerie (1944), but in short stories such as "Portrait of a Girl in Glass" (1943) and "The Case and a Coffin" (1950), in which he mourns "the magical intimacy of our childhood together", splintered by the oncoming of adolescence and sex.

Tennessee could take refuge in his "interior life of memories and fantasies"; Rose had no such resources to draw upon. She grew up outgoing, using make-up earlier than other girls, and was remembered as very pretty and a bit standoffish". But by early teenage "her good spirits were turning into a kind of hysteria; her laughter was more nervous than natural; she was moody and was de-

veloping a strange little hunch Self-dramatisation had tipped over into pessimism: "Everything was, as she kept saying, 'just tragic!" Such di-

The troubled life of Rose alogue, delivered with a South-Williams haunts the works of em accent, is echoed in the forlorn character of Blanche DuBois in A Streetcar Named Desire, who, like Rose, was ever disappointed in love.

By 1925, Rose's behaviour had become too erratic for her ailing mother to deal with, and it was decided to send her away to school in Vicksburg - a further separation from her brother. But the "wild jazz age summer" of 1925 was for Tennessee a remembrance of Rose and her boyfriends dancing the Charleston, memories again to resurface in his own work. Rose was preoccupied with pretty clothes and looking beautiful; from exile in Vicksburg she wrote to her brother in the languorous speech of a nascent Tennessee Williams heroine. "Here I sit in agony my face covered in green beauty clay . . . I don't need to tell you how striking the effect it. I think it's lovely of you to write to me so often even though I don't answer . . . as often as I should. You know stamps amount up and I am so busy." Her favourite song was "Poor

"Cruelly excluded" from the Williams family as Tennessee and his developing literary career became the battleground between his parents, at 18 Rose felt unloved, and relationships were inconstant: "My beau hasn't arrived yet, he comes in the morning and stays until one o'clock every night. I'm so fired of him I could scream Edwina her mother re-

alised, "For the past few years something unknown and fearful had been taking place in the mind of our spirited, imagina-tive Rose." It was hoped a good marriage would settle her, but her debut was "a fiasco from the first", wrote Edwina, "as everything in Rose's life seems to be". The local paper ran a large photograph of a wistfullooking Rose announcing she would be "the recipient of marked social attention", as she was, for a month; but none of the boys asked for a second date and, soon after, serious depression took hold. Severe stomach pains had Rose believing someone was trying to poison her; she fought bitterly with her father, who threatened to leave the family. She lacked



self-confidence, and her failure mother. it was a traumatic having given up on Rose. Tento stick at secretarial jobs was turning-point: "I hate the sight

a fear of sex. Edwina determined that Rose should have respectable "gentleman callers" and wanted Tennessee to bring home "some young friend" - as Amanda in The Glass Menagerie exhorts, "... For Sister! To meet! Get acquainted!" (Mrs Williams "never stopped talking", recalled a friend of Rose's.) Yet Tennessee – still a virgin at 25, like his sister - hated her inept attempts at promiscuity: "Rose, I heard you offer yourself to Colin, and I want you to know that you disgusted me."

At 26, Rose's life began to go seriously out of kilter. Witness to a literary party given by her brother which got out of hand, she "informed" on him to their

Elegy for Rose

She is a metal forged by love

so that her substance will be lost

as sudden lightning or as wind.

And yet the ghost of her remains

reflected with the metal gone,

a shadow as of shifting leaves

at moonrise or at early dawn.

A kind of rapture never quite

possessed again, however long

recaptured in a web of song.

the heart lays siege upon a ghost

too volatile, too fiery thin

diagnosed by her psychiatrist as of your ugly old face!" Tensee screamed at her; the cruellest thing he'd ever done, he

said. In his diary, he wrote:
"... The house is wretched. Rose is on one of her neurotic sprees - fancies herself an invalid -- talks in a silly dying-off way - trails around the house in negligées. Disgusting." Rereading this three years later, Williams added a note: "God forgive me for this!"

You must never make fun of insanity," Rose once reproved her brother. "It's worse than death." "A distance measured in silence" grew up between the siblings, and the estrangement precipitated the tragedy to come. Cornelius objected to the expense of private treatment. and threatened to put Rose in knew that Rose's reality was the State Asylum. Tennessee found it all impossible to deal with: "We have had not deaths in our family but slowly by degrees something was happening much uglier and more terrible than death." "A pity the Church hasn't a place for girls like Rose," wrote her mother. Tennessee's diary was witness to the irrevocable: "R. makes the house tragic, haunted. Must be put away, I suppose. An in-

credible horror to face." In the State Hospital in Farmington, "Dementia Precox (Schizophrenic) Mixed Type, Paranoid Predominating" was diagnosed, and insulin shock university will receive \$7m. and Metrazol therapy prescribed. After six years of hopeless treatment, in 1943, Rose was given a bilateral prefrontal Tennessee Williams (obotomy, sanctioned by Edwina Williams, her husband

nessee's only comment was a journal entry in blank verse:

Grand, God be with you. A chord breaking. 1000 miles away. Rose. Her head cut open. knife thrust in her brain. Me. Here, Smoking. My father, mean as a devil, snoring - 1000 miles

sister in 1939, "her talk was so obscene - she laughed and talked continual obscenities" Post-lobotomy, he found her "possessed of an unbridled imagination, and from then on it would bid them . . . " His own obsession with mental illness re mained with him as Suddenly Last Summer (1958), its heroine also facing insanity, bears witness; as Leverich writes, "He never far removed from his

Tennessee's success with A Streetcar Named Desire in 1947 allowed him to finance his sis ter's private care, and up until his death (he choked on a bottle cap) in 1983, Tennessee continued to pay for her upkeep, whilst intermittently blaming his mother (who died aged 94 in 1979) for having al-lowed the operation. Williams's estate was left to the University of the South in Sewance, Tennessee, with the bulk remaining in trust for his sister during her lifetime. With her death, the

Rose Isabel Williams: born Gulfport, Mississippi 19 November 1909; died Tarrytown, New York 5 September 1996.

Bill Moyce

Bill Moyce was an important member of the team that built and tested Britain's first atomic bombs in the late 1940s and early 1950s and he remained at Aldermaston in a variety of senior positions all his career. He was a versatile scientist and an able manager, but he was perhaps most notable for his unflapoability and for his goodhumour, qualities tested to the limit in those early atomic days. In 1952, for example, it was

Moyce who was chosen to fly out to Australia with the plutonium core which was to be used in the first British nuclear test. This was without doubt the most valuable object in the country - Sellafield and Aldermaston had been built to make it - and there was natural concern about its safe-keeping. Moyce was told that if during the flight out it looked as though the RAF plane was going to crash, he was to clutch the container in his arms, bail out and descend by parachute. It was fortunate that this proved essary, for, as he recalled later, he had never made a parachute jump and it was his first flight in an aeroplane. He was also very doubtful about his ability to hold on to it at the moment the parachute opened.

William Moyce was born in Brockley, south-east London, in 1913. His father, a Fleet Street printer, taught him to set type, but he had other ambitions. From grammar school he won a scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, graduating in Natural Sciences in 1934. A year later he landed his first job, at Woolwich Arsenal, and he was to spend his entire career in ments science.

He spent the war in the Potteries, at an outstation of Woolwich devoted to improving the performance of small arms, and it was there, in late 1946 or early 1947, that he caught the eve of William Penney, the father of the British bomb. It is a measure of Penney's shrewdness that he saw Moyce's genuine talent behind his rather lugubrious manner and his oddly drawling south London delivery.

Initially, Moyce worked at Fort Halstead, Penney's headquarters near Sevenoaks in Kent, on what was called the 'phenomenology" of nuclear reapons, that is, studying the processes that took place in the course of the explosion. As the pressure grew to make the

atomic bomb, however, he was transferred to more applied work and given the job of designing and supervising criticality experiments. An atomic bomb works by combining two pieces of plutonium which, while separate, will not explode, but when forced together violently achieve the "critical mass". The margins are tight, and it was Moyce's task to see that they were observed.

Anbrey Thomas, a junior member of Moyce's team who also died recently, told me: Moyce was trained as a physical chemist, and at first he didn't know the difference between a neutron and a little black ball. But in 18 months he



Moyce: free-thinking

knew so much that he was arguing, on visits to Harwell, with some of the leading physicists in the country. He had a childlike mind; so clear, always asking the awkward question. He could span all science without apparent effort."

In September 1952, at Aldermaston, the first hemispheres of the plutonium core of the bomb were cast, and Moyce and his men spent a tense 20 hours verifying that they could be combined without risk of a premature explosion. They had constructed a giant rig, ringed with neutron counters, which brought the two halves close together, millimetre by millimetre, until they touched. The counters were there to give warning of premature criticality, although if there had been a genuine accident any warning would almost certainly have come too late and some or all of those present

would have died. There were no accidents; the core was safe, and Moyce took it to Australia. The bomb was placed in a re-

high-explosive jacket - a great ball almost five feet across whose job was to crush the plutonium and precipitate the explosion. Again, this was a millimetre-by-millimetre job with counters clicking away all the time. Eddie Howse, a colleague, has recalled pacing up outside the bomb room listening to Moyce's voice from within saying. "Slow . . . slow . . . readings going up . . stop . . . wait . . go down This operation took 90 minutes. The test, called Operation Hurricane, was a success, and Moyce's future in the nuclear weapons business was assured. Like many of that first generation - now sadly dwindling in

dundant frigate, HMS Plym. and, early in the morning of 2 October, Moyce supervised the

loading of the core into the huge

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numbers - he remained at Aldermaston for the rest of his career, playing a part in all the great projects: the H-bomb, Polaris, WE-177, Chevaline. For much of this time he was in charge of the explosives division, which supplied the conventional explosive element for warheads. This was an exacting field, given the continuous demand for smaller, lighter and more efficient weapons.

Moyce's tasks were by now largely managerial, but he nev-er lost his scientific insight or his knack of asking the penetrating question. Pat Cachia, who worked for him in explosives, recalls: "He was a free-thinking scientist. Without getting too involved in detail, he made contributions in every area which were fundamental and deep."

Moyce finished his career in 1973 as head of safety at Aldermaston. He was a tall man with big ears and a slightly gloomy air, an appearance which proved a great complement to his comic gifts. He was the joker of the team, with a dry London wit and the gift of telling a story. In retirement he devoted himself to gardening. He is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he married at the time he joined the bomb pro-ject in 1947, and his son John, who was born within a week of the 1952 Hurricane test.

Brian Cathcart

William Moyce, nuclear weapons scientist: born 12 October 1913: OBE 1963; married 1947 Barbara Manson Campbell (one son): died Newbury 6 September 1996.

Admiral José Merino

Admiral José Merino was the strongman's strongman. While General Augusto Pinochet was the stern face of repression familiar to the world for 17 years of military rule in Chile, the lesser-known admiral was the unbending backbone of its junta all those traumatic years.

Merino was the prime mover in the coun that ousted the world's first democratically elected Marxist president, Salvador Allende, in 1973, Though only second in command of the navy, he undermined his commander-in-chief, Admiral Montero, who was inclined to continue support for Allende and his Popular Unity Party. Merino would have none of it. He despatched a note to the army and air force commanders, Generals Pinochet and Leigh, urging them to act. They did so with force, bombarding the presidential palace. Allende was killed, along with thousands of other Chileans. Many more were to die subsequently at the hands of the regime, kidnapped, tortured and disappeared, adding a new word to state

terrorism - the "Desaparecidos". It was a mirror image of the neighbouring Argentina's Dirty War, if not on such a huge scale, though 'Chile's junta lasted longer and was more vilified internationally, coming in for particularly severe condemnation from the British Labour Party, whose senior members had been personal friends of Allende. As in Argentina, the navy under Merino were every bit as ruthless as their publicly more

predominant army partners. Merino took over command of the navy as Pinochet ruled with an iron hand, brooking no opposition. The army chief systematically disposed of his opponents. While General Leigh was ousted from the three-man junta in 1978, it was testimony to Merino's influence and power that he remained to the end.

leaving office only when Pinochet reluctantly handed government back to civilian rule in 1990. Throughout, Merino was Pinochet's confidant and potent partner, every bit as authoritarian as his master and deeply distrustful of politicians. He regarded Allende's party as a tool of Communist expansion in Latin America as did the then United States government, which was implicated through

the CIA in efforts to undermine Allende's government. Surprisingly to the outside world, the military government was not as universally detested within Chile as it was abroad. Many middle-class Chileans praised the junta for restoring order on the streets, ending the anarchy of the last days of the Allende regime and pursuing what appeared to be pragmatic monetarist policies in a new free market economy. Merino went along with this to some extent, but when Pinochet embarked upon a policy of privatisation, targeting Chile's ports, Merino stepped in and declared that he must remain in charge of these important installations

on Chile's very long and vulnerable coastline. He got his way. Like many of Latin America's military rulers. Merino was a deeply conservative Roman Catholic, publicly expressing his ethos of "the Flag, Church and Family". Yet it was the Catholic Church and its courageous clergy which led the fight against human rights violations. It was not an unusual sight to see Merino and other military leaders praying in church, while a few blocks away their opponents were being tortured and killed, a graphic example of the double standards of Merino and his fellow senior officers.

Merino: authoritarian ernment posts. While Merino and Pinochet blamed much of Chile's troubles and its bad image abroad on an international Communist conspiracy master-minded from Moscow. the most effective challenge to their authoritarian rule came from the more moderate political groups within the country itself and even from some sections of the armed forces.

While the austere Pinochet insisted on remaining army chief, Merino went into retirement in the naval port city of Valparaiso, playing golf and secure in the knowledge that there could be no punishment of the military for human rights violations. Pinochet had secured an amnesty providing them with immunity from prosecution.

Merino had been born into a naval family and spent some time in England, first as a boy when his father was Chilean naval attaché in France, and then later in London as his country's assistant naval attaché in 1956 and 1957.

Harold Briley

José Toribio Merino Castro. naval officer: born 14 December 1915; member, Chilean Government Junta 1973-90; married 1952 Margarita Riofrio Bustos (three daughters); died Valparaiso 31 August 1996.

Dr Bernard Reiss tirement in 1990. He was, to- Physicians. I said to him, "Your main claim to fame, Sir, is that

Bernard Reiss was prominent among the doctors who transformed general practice after the Second World War, by introducing vocational training for prospective GPs and pioneering communication

Medicine had previously been hierarchical and, although there have always been humane doctors, in most cases treatment was prescriptive in both senses of the word: with the bottle of coloured medicine, the patient was told what to do. Reiss realised that the spirit of the times had changed.

He came from a long line of Liberal, and later Fabian, active altruists - his father was the founder of both Welwyn Garden City and Hampstead Garden Suburb - and, from both nature and nurture, he had the ideal background for the new style of GP. Intelligent, warm, modest, humane, and wise, he had rejected all

forms of privilege long before it was fashionable; he broke the family tradition of going to Balliol College, Oxford, be-cause he thought that Bart's in London would be more like real life, and he did not regret that Until the 1950s, going into

general practice was regarded as a last resort. It hadn't the prestige it enjoys today and most doctors wanted to spe-cialise. While we students lazed away the vacations, Reiss would go and work for nothing in the Peckham Health Centre, that cradle of the NHS, and he took a higher degree, Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, because he wanted to go into general practice well prepared. This was almost unique at that time, and that sort of phi-losophy was partly responsible for the resurgence of general practice.

Reiss was a GP in Cam-

gether with Ian Tate, a like-minded GP in Aldeburgh, the first Regional Adviser in General Practice for East Anglia. Reiss played a key role in the foundation of the Clinical School at Cambridge University in 1976, and he became the first Director of GP Studies there. He was one of the first to think of general practice as a speciality, and pioneered the use of general practice as a setting in which to teach medicine

to clinical students. Bernard Reiss's diffidence and slowness of speech con-cealed a rock-hard integrity and high-mindedness covering all aspects of his life. At the Suez crisis in 1956, he was on the RAF reserve and told me that he hoped to be called up, so that he could refuse and go to

and teaching. It saddened them to see the changes in the NHS which made it less personal and

I once stood in a queue next. to Lord Platt, the former Pres-

would listen patiently to his erroneous self-diagnosis, question him, examine him and disagree. He did all this respectfully but firmly. Platt said that, if the positions had been reversed, he couldn't have done it half as well. Reiss's wife Margaret was a social worker and they shared a vision of healthcare - giving

you've got the finest General Practitioner in the country." He

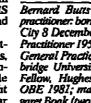
almost burst with enthusiasm

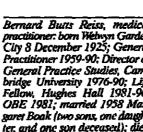
and agreed; he said that Reiss

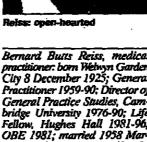
more money-minded. Bernard Reiss was right eous but never self-righteous, open-hearted, invariably unhurried and gentle, lovable and loving. No wrong thought ever ventured anywhere near

David Mendel

Bernard Butts Reiss, medical practitioner: born Welwyn Garden City 8 December 1925; General Practitioner 1959-90: Director of General Practice Studies, Cambridge University 1976-90; Life Fellow, Hughes Hall 1981-96; OBE 1981; married 1958 Margaret Boak (two sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Cambridge 2 August 1996.







bridge from 1959 until his re- ident of the Royal College of

COOKS: On 4 September 1996, to Kim (née Hutchings) and Justin, a son, Sebastian Thomas Labatt, a brother for Frederica and Benedict. FLEMING: On 6 September, at the Royal Free, Hampstead, to Mireille Royal Free, Hampstead, to Mireille (nee Douerin) and Peter, a daughter,

DEATHS

BIRTHS

MATTHEWS: Roger Charles, passed away at home on 10 September. Much-loved husband of Slaisopin (Toffee), father of Amber and Zoe, son of Andrey and Geoffrey, and brother of Elizabeth. Futternal service for family and close friends will be held at Chichester Crematorium at 12pm on Monday 16 September. The date for thanksgiving service will be amnounced at a later date. No flow-

Births, Marriages & Deaths

ers please, but if wished, donations to the Macmillan Service, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 OBL

West Sussien GU29 OBL.
SPROXTON: Vernon, on 9 September
1996, at Tunstall, North Yorkshire,
husband of Margaret and father to
Ruth, David and the late Andrew.
Funeral, 2.30pm, Monday 16 September, at the United Reformed
Church, Northgate, Darlington, followed by private interment at St
Eloy's Parish Church, Great Smeaton.
No flowers, donations to charity.

Birthdays Miss Maria Aitken, actress and stage

director, 51; Sir Lindsay Alexander, former deputy chairman, Lloyds Bank, 76; Mr Nicholas Barter, Principal, RADA, 56; Miss Chili Bouch-ier, actress, 87; Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochicl, chief of the clan, 86; Mr Alan Catheart, chairman, Avis Europe, 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Compston, 81; Miss Linda Gray, actress, 55; Mr Wesley Hall, cricketer and politician, 59; Miss Han Suyin, doctor and author, 79; Mr Ian Holm, actor, 65; Mr Gerald Howarth MP, 49; Mr Freddie Jones, actor, 69; Mr Donal Lenihan, rugby player, 37; Lord Milner of Leeds, solicitor and politician, 73; Mr Patrick Mower, actor, 55; The Right Rev Alan Rogers,

former Bishop of Edmonton, 89; Sir Arthur Sugden, former chief executive, CWS, 78; Sir Gervas Walker, former chairman, Avon County Council, 76: Mr Max Walker, cricketer, 48; Miss Rachel Ward, actress, 39; Professor George Zarnecki, art histori-

Anniversaries Births: Francis I. King of France, 1494; Sir William Dugdale, herald and antiquary, 1605; Richard Jordan Gatling inventor (of the Gatling gun). 1818; Herbert Henry Asquith, first Earl of Oxford and Asquith. statesman, 1852: Frederick Louis MacNeice, poet and broadcaster, 1907; John Cleveland (Jesse) Owens,

athlete, 1913. Deaths: Dr Peter Mark Roget, lexicographer, 1869; Rupen D'Oyly Carte, operatic impresario, 1948; Anthony Perkins, actor, 1992; Raymond William Stary Burr, actor, 1993, On this day: Eton College received its first charter, 1440; the Hud-son river was discovered by Henry Hudson, 1609; Drogheda was sacked by Oliver Cromwell, 1649; the obelisk of Thothmes III ("Cleopstra's Needie") was erected on the Thames Embankment, London, 1878; the world's

first policewoman, Mrs Alice Steb-

hins Wells, was appointed to the Los

Angeles Police Department, 1910; the

Lascaux Caves, France, containing ex-

amples of Cro-Magnon man's art,

were discovered, 1940; Benito Mus-

solini, imprisoned by the Allies, was

rescued by the Germans, 1943; Nikita Khrushchev became first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1953. Today is the Feast Day of St Ailbhe, St Eanswida and St Guy

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Akean (ii): Vuilland, Two Girls Wolking Victoria and Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "Art Deco",

2.30pm Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "What is Truth? Changing Views of Nature from the 19th to the 20th Century

British Museum: Stephen Duffy, "Impressionist Drawings: innova-tion and tradition", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Margaret Binnie, "Exposed and Descried Young Children: the history of the

After 10 years, cracks began

to appear and the military

regime made concessions in

response to growing dissent, allowing civilians into senior gov-

foundling hospital and its role in the renaissance of British art", 1.10pm, Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce Mr Michael Harris, Premier of Ontario, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce, at the Four Seasons Hotel, London NW1. Mr Michael Chapman, President of the Chamber, presided,

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS RUYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Princess Royal attends the Universiy of Buth's International Coffoquium on
Sport and Higher Education into the 21st
Century at the Guildhall, Bath, Somersen,
as Patron, Institute of Logistica, presents
the National Awards at the 1996 Annual
Awards Ceremony and Dinner. Royal
Lancaster Hotel, London W2. Princess
Alexandra Opens the new conference
lacities at Auckland Castle, Bishop Amelland. County Durham.
Characterism and the

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Ouern's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham.

Ameouscements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER Deutsche foots bill for Morgan bonus bonanza

Investment: Sea change looms for Coats

JILL TREAMOR and ELISABETH KLEIN

Deutsche Bank, the German giant behind three troubled Morgan Grenfell Asset Managment funds, is expected to pay millions of pounds of bonuses to fund managers in spite of the enormous losses revealed last

The bonuses will be paid to help Morgan Grenfell Asset Management retain its highlyregarded fund management team and improve morale, which has taken a severe knock after three top-performing funds were suspended last week as a result of the activities of Personal Pe ter Young, the fund manager at the centre of investigations.

A senior official in Frankfurt made clear that there was no intention of cancelling bonuses because of the losses run up by Mr Young, which have forced

Deutsche to inject £180m so far. "Before we can say anything precise about the extent to which bonuses will be affected, we have to know how big the damage is," Hellmut Hart-mann, spokesman for Deutsche Bank, said in Frankfurt.

"But I don't believe that even if there will be a poorer per-formance of the funds it will inextent. Our advantage is that a financially strong parent stands behind this unfortunate incident," Mr Hartmann said, "This has done quite a lot of damage £100,000. to our image," he added. "Perform

Bank committed itself to further protecting the funds by promisng to buy units in the two trusts affected - European Growth Fund.

Mr Young, manager of Eu-ropean Capital Growth and European Growth, was suspended last week after regulators uncovered a maze of Luxembourg-registered shell companies which he appears to have used to hide his exposure to risky histech stocks.

It is believed that fund managers at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management are paid bonuses around February or March on the basis of the entire group's performance but with an additional discretionary award based on their own performance.

Bonuses are crucial in the City, where basic salaries, already substantial, can be at least doubled by the yearly bonus round. Last year ING, the Dutch bank that took over Barings after it collapsed, was forced to honour bonus promises to keep key teams together. A sudden loss of staff can even jeopardise the stability of firms.

Fund managers, traditionally fluence the bonuses to a big the poor relative to bond, foreign exchange and derivative traders, can still expect bonuses of at least 70 per cent of their basic salary, which can reach

"Performance is important

This emerged as Deutsche and fund managers who are successful will be rewarded," said Martin Symon, consultant at

Remuneration packages also Trust and Europa - and shares attract the attention of regula-in European Capital Growth tors because of concerns that tors because of concerns that pay deals based on performance can encourage executives to take too many risks.

Mr Hartmann acknowledged that risks are taken by Deutsche employees. "Obviously our con-trol system didn't work well enough, but we can't handcuff our staff. We want them to work as real entrepreneurs, who take a higher risk in order to make a higher profit."

The German bank has sent Udo Behrenwald, head of DWS, its German fund management arm, to London to help unravel Mr Young's trading positions and establish why he managed to hide his actions from his managers.

The bank does not intend to send any other German officials to sort out its flagship British

The examination of the proceedings and the control system will probably take a couple of weeks. We are still busy finding out what has actually hap-pened,"Mr Hartmann said. Morgan Grenfell said that the

rate of redemption had continued to slow down significantly and "there is currently sufficient liquidity in each of the three investment funds to meet re-

Set for an autumn flotation: Robert Peel (far right), chief executive of Thistle Hotels

TOM STEVENSON

Thistle Hotels took its cue from the recent postponement of Lonrho's hotel division spin-off and steered a cautious line on the pricing of its forthcoming flotation yesterday. Robert Peel, chief executive, restated his confidence that there would be plenty of demand, but the valuation range he unveiled was below more optimistic expecta-tions earlier in the summer.

Although the company has never commented officially on what it hoped to raise, the market expected had been led to expect a market value on flotation

Thistle cautious over float price

offer price of between 170p and that investor appetite may be on 210p would value the four-star chain between £1.05bn and

£1.24bn, flotation said he was relieved by the pricing. He added that at anything over £1.2bn, the issue would become increasingly less attractive. There has been a steady stream of hotel company flotations this year and some in Comment, page 21 of up to £1.5bn. The expected the City are beginning to worry

the wane. Unveiling a forecast of at least £100m in operating profits One banker involved in the for the current year compared with the £89.3m achieved in 1995 and the £60,4m and £74.3m of the previous two years, Mr Peel insisted that Thistle represented a unique, focused investment in the UK hotel industry and of-

Photograph: Andrew Buurman it is the biggest hotelier ahead of Granada.

Had the shares been listed for the whole of the current year, the company said, a total dividend of 3.7p per share would have been paid giving a gross yield of between 22 and 2.7 per cent.

Thistle also confirmed yesterday that Brierley Invest-ments, which owns 70 per cent of the shares, would be reducing its stake by selling 17 per cent of its existing holding. Two investment arms of the Singapore government, which own the rest of the shares, would be selling a similar proportion.

Share applications by private fered a strong exposure to the booming London market, where mediaries by 27 September. investors must be with inter-

rejected a five-year price

regime, triggering an immediate

the Grid is inefficient," said one

analyst. "But the regulator is us-

ing a price formula which sug-

gests the company is inefficient.

That is totally perverse."

"Offer has no evidence that

MMC referral.

Ofgas likely to phase in suppliers

CHRIS GODSMARK **Business Correspondent**

Ofgas, the Gas industry watchdog, yesterday gave its clearest signal yet that it would phase in the move towards full competition for domestic customers, instead of throwing the market open in one move in the spring

The news raised the possibility of delays for some of the more than 16 million affected households, which might not be able to shop around for alternative gas supplies to British Gas until the end of 1998 at least.

"When you come to look at nationwide competition you can't do it overnight. You'll have to phase it in then," said

an Ofgas spokesman.
One of the things we're looking at is phasing it over a period of time. It doesn't make sense to do it in one big bang,"

The spokesman said a timetable had not been decided. However, independent gas suppliers who compete with British Gas suggested full-scale competition might start at the beginning of 1998 and continue for several months.

Mark Petterson, the manag-

ing director of Total Gas Marketing, a joint venture between the French oil giant and Lon-don Electricity, said: "We've got to look to the right solution, if TransCo can't cope for 16 million people potentially switch-ing from British Gas in one day. Nobody is looking for a delay apart from British Gas."

The news increases the pressure on the electricity industry to adopt a similar, phased approach to domestic competition for power supplies, planned to take place in one go in April 1998.

Ofgas yesterday confirmed that it was to roll out the second stage of its ongoing competition trial by extending

More than 500,000 households in Dorset and the former county of Avon will be able to choose their supplier from 13 January, with up to a further 1 million customers in Kent and East and West Sussex added on 7 February. The process had been expected to happen in April 1997.

In the first trial area, in the South-west, 500,000 homes have had a choice of gas company for more than four months. So far about 70,000 have switched from British Gas.

The decision to phase in the second stage of competition was welcomed by the Gas Consumers' Council yesterday. Some customers in the South-west had complained after British Gas accidentally debited hundreds of pounds from their bank accounts when they switched to alternative

£613m payout to shareholders

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Reuters, the financial information giant, yesterday launched an innovative plan to pay out £613m of its £850m cash pile to shareholders over three years.

The buyback, which will reduce the number of ordinary shares oustanding by 5 per cent, takes the form of a bonus issue of new special dividend shares, paying 750p each over three years. This is worth about 37.5p per existing Renters share. The complicated structure was linked to tax minimalisation. Reuters insiders

said yesterday. Registered shareholders on 8 October will be entitled to one new share and 19 new ordinary shares for every 20 shares they hold. The cashback scheme will require the approval of shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting scheduled for 9 October.

The extent of the move surprised analysts, who had been signalling a share repurchase worth perhaps £300m. The shares jumped 14p yesterday to

close at 764p.

Reuters last rewarded investors in 1993 through a controversial share repurchase scheme that put £324m into the pockets of shareholders. Tax-exempt institutions were able to claim tax credits, at a considerable cost to the Inland Rev-

Robert Rowley, finance director, said the new scheme was created once it became clear that the Inland Revenue would not allow a repeat of the 1993 buyback. "We had to go back and rethink the issue," he said.

FTSE 250

FTSE 350

FT Small Cap

He added that the approach, while complicated, was necessary if all shareholders, including US residents, were to be

treated equally.
The Inland Revenue has not pre-approved the scheme, and indeed is reserving the right to apply anti-avoidance measures if it believes the dividend qualifies as "abnormal". However, tax specialists consulted by Reuters said shareholders ought to be able to show they hold the special dividend shares for bona fide commercial reasons and not largely in order to

obtain a tax advantage. Spinning cash back to shareholders has become popular in the US and the UK, and has led both tax jurisdictions to tighten the rules. Mr Rowley said it was much easier to reward shareholders in this way than to "continually answer questions from shareholders and analysts about what we were going to do

with the money". Reuters has been acquisitive in recent years, and its huge cash position - £850m and no debt made it a favourite candidate for launching a mega-bid. But the company has routinely said it would not acquire companies outside its main areas of com-

petence. Key to Reuters phenomenal growth has been its core financial information products, most recently the series 3000 display screens for the use of financial professionals. It dominates the market for foreign exchange information, and has seen off competitors such as Bloomberg. It is also poised to take advantage of growing interest in emerging markets.

STOCK MARKETS

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Comment, page 21 Babycham.

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Source: FT Information

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Reuters to make Grid investors protest at new price regime

CHRIS GODSMARK Business Correspondent

Investors holding up to a third of the shares in the National Grid have written to the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, to protest at proposed tough new price controls.

Some leading fund managers have urged the Grid to take the dispute to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if Offer, the watchdog, refuses to water down the four-year price regime when the final formula is unveiled, possibly later this month. One of the Grid's main shareholders said: "I have absolutely no doubt they should go

to the MMC. I think they've got a very strong case." National Grid, which operates the high-voltage electricity transmission network, had anpealed to investors to write to the regulator, in the same way as British Gas did over its row

with Ofgas. Many attacked the price regime, which would slash

would knock between 20 and 26 per cent off charges, and limit any increases in the following three years to no more than 4

percentage points below inflation. The cuts would be worth holders. There should be a fair



Row sparked: Professor Littlechild, electricity regulator

up to £1.2bn off the Grid's revealed to £5 off average domestic balance between the interests of an MMC investigation should shareholders and consumers Professor Littlechild decide not shareholders and consumers
and in this case the balance is
Trom next April, the formula

David Gould, manager of and in this case the balance is

David Gould, manager of against investors."

Professor Littlechia decide not to back down. Last month, all homes earlier than the investors."

Choice to 1 minion administration of the professor Littlechia decide not to back down. Last month, all homes earlier than the investors."

Northern Ireland Electricity

National Grid yesterday tional Association of Pension Funds, which has also written to claimed the proposals were "the Offer, said: The proposals are harshest in the energy sector", clearly detrimental to sharedescribing them as "inconsistent and based on ill-founded assumptions." The company's formal response in the consultation process said the controls would result in an immediate expropriation of exceptional effi-

> current price control". Offer argued that the Grid could cut its operating costs by between 4 and 6 per cent each year, after allowing for inflation. The company fiercely disputed this calculation. It said it had already reduced its costs by 37 per cent in the past three years and could only make future

ciency gains achieved under the

cent a year. Some City electricity analysts last night suggested the argument was shifting towards the Grid, raising the prospect of

efficiency savings worth 2.3 per

Another key area of dispute is over Offer's £4bn calculation of National Grid's assets, which the company insists are worth £4.75hn, which would give shareholders a greater return. Professor Littlechild had deducted £400m from the asset

base to represent the value of Energis, the Grid's new telecommunications operation. Yet during the Grid's flotation no value had been attributed to the business. Another fund manager said Offer had "used the most pessimistic market value for the Grid that you could pos-

Gokal 'bribed

Matthew Clark chief's position 'under review'

PATRICK TOOHER

Shares in Matthew Clark, the cider maker and soft drinks group, remained in free fall yesterday as investors demanded more information, and even some management changes, following Tuesday's shock prof-

its warning. Almost £200m, or nearly half of Clark's stock market value, has disappeared in two days of hectic trading since chief executive Peter Aikens blamed a new breed of 'alcopops' and other alcoholic lemon drinks aimed at younger drinkers for a slump in demand for its Diamond White and K Cider brands and

"The further fall in the share price speaks volumes for the tion has to be under review," lack of confidence that now exists," said one leading institutional investor. "Quite how sales disappeared in two months stretches credibility. It is almost unprecedented for a

company this size." Last night the shares closed 75.5p lower at 355.5p, valuing the company at just over £400m. More than 9 million shares have changed hands since the profits warning compared with average daily dealings of around 400,000.

Fund managers are de-manding more details from the company before addressing the question of possible boardroom changes.

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INTEREST RATES

Road Yields

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<u>6.13 [6.96</u>

3.28__ (6.31

ĺ 291

Heath Court in Grant Falls

10 4.4

Brit Borrieo Pets 606.5 34 5.9 Clark(Matthew) 355.5 75.5 17.5

0.66

"Clearly Mr Aikens' posisaid one institution, "but we need to establish the facts before any heads roll."

Mr Aiken has used a series of rights issues to pursue an acquisitions-led strategy over the past six years, turning Clark into Britain's second-largest cider maker and a leading soft drinks producer whose brands include Strathmore mineral water and Taunton and Gaymer's ciders.

What is puzzling analysts and investors is why this deliberate diversification policy still left the Clark group so exposed to a sudden switch during the summer from strong white cider to alcopops. The three brands affected CURRENCIES

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OTHER INDICATORS

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by the shift in consumptionpattern account for about one-fifth of Clark's profits. "There might be more to

this than just alco-pops," said a fund manager. One suggestion is that internal management targets for Taunton, the cider company bought by Mr Clark for £271m last September, had been raised to unrealistic levels on the back of booming cider sales during the long, hot summer of 1995. Mr Clark has already incurred

the wrath of fund managers last month when it emerged that Mr Aikens received a £430,000 relocation package after the company moved its headquarters to Bristol from Guildford.

Testerday Clarage There Age

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BCCI officers'

plotted with senior officials of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International to syphon off millions of pounds. leading to its collapse and a disaster for its depositors, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

Abhas Gokal, 60, and his two brothers had run up a \$1.2bn (£770m) debt to the bank when it folded in July 1991. said Anthony Hacking QC,

prosecuting.

Mr Gokal had operated a massive swindle involving corrupt officials, secret global bank accounts, vast numbers of fake documents and other people's money to fund a lavish lifestyle,

he alleged.

A false document factory was set up in BCCI's City of London headquarters in Leadenhall Street to feed the fraud. the court heard.

A sham financial structure was created "which was used as a screen to deceive the outside world as to what was really go-ing on between him and BCCI, Mr Hacking told the court.

Mr Gokal, 60, has denied conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to account faisely beween 1985 and 1991.

He ran a collection of companies from Geneva and London called the Gulf Group, according to the prosecution.

Bribes were paid to three of the BCCI officers involved in

The head of an international the fraud, routed through bank shipping and trading empire accounts that Mr Gokal controlled, the prosecution alleged. Documents signed by him were found by the Serious Fraud Office in a safe deposit box in the City of London "which showed that he and his

two brothers owned and con-

trolled the companies involved

in the frauds", said Mr Hack-

Inc. They show that he and his two brothers incurred \$1.2bn of debt owed to BCCI. There was no real security. BCCI had not got any real security in this extraordinary situation. This was a major factor leading to the closing and collapse of BCCI.

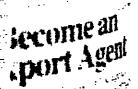
"We say the Gulf Group and Gokal himself had a dishonest relationship with senior officials of BCCI going back to the Seventies. Within that relationship, Gokal and the Gulf Group secretly received millions upon millions of dollars from BCCI in the Eighties," said Mr Hack-

After the collapse, most of the conspirators went to Pakistan where they were safe because there was no extradition treaty with Britain, the court heard.

Mr Gokal also went, but in December 1994 caught a plane travelling from Pakistan to the United States which put down in Frankfurt to refuel. Mr Gokal was arrested and extradited to Britain. The trial is expected to last six months.







Pru to launch telephone bank next month



Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, yesterday said its plans for a telephone bank offering both mortgages and savings aunch date of 1 October.

Peter Davis, group chief ex-ecutive at the Pru, said the bank's services would be aimed. primarily at the company's existing customers.
"We are planning to have a

range of mortgages available, as well as several deposit accounts, but because of competitive

The £33m development costs of the Pru's new banking arm. helped dent the insurer's halfproducts were on target for a year profits, which still reached a record high of £421m, up from £390m in the first six months of last year. Mr Davis said: "The first half of 1996 has been a productive period for [us]. We have made significant progress

in shaping the company to en-Among the company's growth areas, seen as key to its

last year, excluding the bank setup charges.

Sales of single premium products rose by 50 per cent to £1.577bn, while regular premi-um contribution sales reached

£157m, up by 15 per cent. Industry analysts have tradi-tionally seen single premium in-come as less significant for

insurers because they are capable of fluctuating heavily.

However, Mr Davis said: "When we spoke to the analysts

its of £203m, 2 per cent up on view is that this is what customers want now.

What they are doing has a solid underlying sense. They do not want to take on long-term commitments but prefer to make a single contribution when they have the resources. When they feel they have the

resources they will come back again. We are quite happy with that approach.

Mercantile & General, the reinsurer which the Pru recently announced it was selling

pressures we cannot say too medium-term development some were sceptical. But we do to Swiss Re for £1.75m, conmuch until the end of the strategy, the UK delivered prof- not think that is the case. Our tributed £90m to group profits in the first six months of the

> Despite this contribution, Mr Davis restated his view that there were "no significant operational and strategic synergies between M&G and our other

The sale of M&G, together with a much smaller Dutch op-eration, Prudential Leven, gives the Pru a £1.8bn war chest to

fund future acquisitions. Mr Davis said the company wanted to buy a mortgage

tributed 190m to group profits but he refused to be drawn on the Prudential was talking to

We are interested in buying a building society but for its branch network and its customer base rather than its mortgage book," he said, adding that the priority at present was for the Pru to complete its disposal

of Mercantile & General. Profits at Jackson National, the Pru's US arm, rose 30 per cent to £153m, contributing more than a third to the insurer's overall returns.

Buoyant.

Mirror

set to

expand

Mirror Group yesterday vowed to expand further in media businesses, including newspapers and television, as it

reported interim pre-tax profits, before exceptional costs, of £39m and improved cash flow.

David Montgomery, chief ex-

ecutive, said: "Mirror Group has

outperformed other newspa-

per companies in absorbing a 35

per cent increase in newsprint

costs. The quality of these re-

suits confirms Mirror Group as

an efficiently run media business

MATHEW HORSMAN

Media Editor

A sea change looming for Coats

Take a company operating in mature, cut-throat markets, subject to hugely volatile raw material prices, and you have a pretty accurate picture of Coats Viyella's struggle over recent years. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that the shares have underperformed the rest of the market by more than 40 per cent over the past five years. Like most of the rest of the UK textile industry, Coats has been tardy at addressing the threat from overseas competition. But the group has been spurred into action by the looming demise in 2005 of the multi-fibre agreement, the textiles trade treaty that has protected high-

cost Western producers.

A £55m restructuring will see a further massive transfer of Coats' production from the developed to the developing world. By 2000, about 40 per cent of its clothing sales to Marks & Spencer - worth about £300m - will be coming from abroad, up from 20 per cent now. While that will deliver cost savings, Coats will still have to run to stand still, as yesterday's half-year fig-

ures to June showed. The 34 per cent slide in headline pretax profits to £47m was heavily impacted by the £17.2m cost of the first phase of the restructuring taken in the first half. But even without that, op-erating profits still slumped by a disappointing 11 per cent to £78m. Yet ain, the group has failed to fire on again, the group has same and Turkey all cylinders, with Brazil and Turkey turning down again after last year's continued strong recovery from previous problems. Together they accounted for £5m of the £8.5m downturn in preexceptional profits to £48.6m in the thread division, which accounts for close to half the group's business.

Even so, how Coats addresses its difficulties in developed markets will be more important for its future. This year's profits will bear the full re-structuring cost of £55m, including £32m to be spent in the European thread operations. Cost savings should rise from £10m this year to £35m by 1998, but Coats admits that competition will mean that only £20m to

£25m actually hits the bottom line. Short-term, the prospects are looking up, led by the US and UK. Profits were 16 per cent ahead across the Atlantic, while in the UK there are clear signs of an end to the destocking and gloomy housing markets. With raw material prices returning to more normal levels, the £5m hit on costs in the first half should reverse into a second-half

gain of £10m.
"Clean" profits before exceptionals of £158m this year would put the shares, up 3.5p at 164p, on a forward multiple of 12, assuming a 31 per cent THE INVESTMENT COLUMN in the year to next January and £415m next year, they stand on a prospective

COATS VIYELLA : AT A GLANCE

220

200

180

150 ^{bb}

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

tax. With the consumer recovery picking up next year, 1997 should be better for Coats - but given the unappealing background, the real attraction is the 6.7 per cent yield.

New enthusiasm for Kingfisher

It was only 18 months ago that most of the City was writing Kingfisher off as a basket case, a collection of second-line high street brands with serious question marks over its management capabilities. Since then, the shares have appreciated by about 60 per cent and yesterday analysts were upgrading their forecasts for the next two years.

Their renewed enthusiasm for the group, whose interests include B&Q. Woolworths, Superdrug and Comet, was underpinned by a sparkling set of profits for the six months to August that showed good growth in all its chains, even howed good growth in all its chains, even of this good news is in the price, which he Darty electricals shops in France.

After a 10 per cent rise in sales to above their 400p low at the beginning the Darty electricals shops in France.

*paid as a foreign income dividend of 4,6250.

Operating profit by business

Trading record

cent to £109.6m, above almost everyone's expectations, earnings per share of 11.7p were 43 per cent higher, and shareholders were rewarded with an 11 per cent dividend hike from 4.5p to 5p.

B&Q, which overtook Darty in the period to be the biggest profits contributor with £47m (£31.8m), enjoyed a resurgence of interest in DIY from much more buoyant consumers. Good like-for-like growth was boosted by refits of the smaller supercentre stores and a focus on product availability.

Attention to merchandise also helped Woolworths, which never makes much of a profit in the relatively unimportant first half but still managed an impressive turnaround from last year's £900,000 loss to a £4.6m profit. Comet has started to claw back some of the ground it has lost to Dixons in recent years and Superdrug's repositioning as a health and beauty shop rather than a discount toiletries out-

let seems finally to be paying off. The important question is how much £2.5bn, profits before tax jumped 47 per of 1995. With forecasts for about £365m

Total Control of the control of the

next year, they stand on a prospective p/e ratio of 17, falling to 15.

That represents a small discount to the sector, which seems a little harsh given better-than-average growth prospects, rising consumer spending and a good toe-hold in Europe, the battleground which, in the longer term, will sort out retailing's winners and losers. Fair value.

ABP seeks port in a storm

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of Associated British Ports, yesterday gave plenty of reasons Labour should not extend its proposed windfall tax on pri-vatised utilities to the operator of 22 UK ports, including Southampton, Hull and Cardiff, Goldman Sachs recently included ABP in a list of

potential victims of the proposed tax. Sir Keith, formerly a non-executive chairman of Seeboard, was adamant that ABP was neither a utility nor a monopoly. He claimed, rightly, that the company faces competition at home and abroad, where many ports are subsidised, and has to invest heavily to remain competitive.

The other reason the tax would be inappropriate was not dwelt on at any great length by Sir Keith - the interim results provided no evidence ABP is making the "excessive profits" Labour might be keen to plunder. The adverse share price reaction to news of a lower-than-expected 8 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £46.9m, suggested many in the City think ABP is not making nearly enough.

While investors who bought into ABP at privatisation in the Eighties have hit the jackpot, the shares have hovered around the 300p mark for almost three years.

Today cash-generative, ABP is concentrating on the less ambitious strategy of growing existing port operations rather than chasing acquisitions. Some £65m is being spent on developing Southampton alone and Sir Keith is confident that the fundamental attractions of the port will remain unchanged even if this week's merger between P&O's and Nedlloyd's container activities sees some existing contracts with ABP re-negotiated.

Broker SGST has left its full-year pre-tax forecast unchanged at £100m with the dividend seen rising a penny to 7.5p. On a forward p/e of 15, the shares, down 10p to 295p, yield only 3.2 per cent. Unexciting.

Independent may boost stake abroad

MATHEW HORSMAN

Independent Newspapers, the media company controlled by Dr Tony O'Reilly, could move this year to increase its direct stake in its Australian and New Zealand associate companies, using the proceeds of a previously announced Ir£106m rights

The option was under active consideration, Brendan Hopkins, managing director, said yesterday, commenting on the

company's interim profits.
Independent could also bid
for the 47 regional newspaper
titles being sold by United News
& Media, Lord Hollick's print and television media company.

The acquisitive mood was struck as half-year pre-tax profits improved by 28 per cent to In 25m, buoyed by record profits and circulation gains at the company's core Irish titles. The

interim dividend was lifted 12 per cent to 2.3p, and the shares

rose 5p to 307.5p.

Overseas, the results were particularly strong in South Africa and Anstralia, where Independent owns a stake in Australian Provincial Newspapers and ARN, the radio network.

Mr Hopkins said that moderating newsprint prices, as well as a buoyant advertising market in the UK, helped reduce loss-es at Newspaper Publishing, in which Independent has a 46 per cent stake. Newspaper Publishing owns the Independent and the Independent on Sunday, and saw operating losses decline in the first six months of the year

to £7m, from £12.6m last time. The company intends to pur-sue new television and radio licences in South Africa, But Mr Hopkins ruled out investments in the UK commercial radio

capable of further expansion." He expressed regret that the group had failed to win the recent bidding war for Westminster Press, the regional newspaper group, but said he would look at other newspaper

> become available". The Westminster Press bid had been mounted in league with Independent Newspapers, Dr Tony O'Reilly's media group, and Mr Montgomery said the two companies could

acquisitions "as and when they

work together in the future. Independent Newspapers and Mirror Group each controls 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, which owns the Independent and the Independent on

Sunday. Mirror Group newspapers. Iled by the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mirror, reported operating profits of £55.2m in the first six months of 1996, with margins roughly stable at 20 per cent. "That puts us at the top end of the market," Mr Mont-

gomery said. Shareholders will receive a 12.5 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 1.35p. Mirror Group's shares closed 6.5p

higher at 207p yesterday. Live TV, the group's cable television channel, was ahead of budget, Mr Montgomery said, and would be at break even by 1999. He added that independent consultants had put a value of £50m-£90m on the channel, and that the stock market was underestimating the power of the Live TV brand.

In Brief

• The prospect of an increase in US interest rates later this month sent US Treasury bonds lower yesterday but helped the dollar past the ¥110 level for the first time since mid-July and briefly tise above DM1.51. Janet Yellen, a Federal Reserve governor, said the economy looked vulnerable to inflation. The Fed's "Beige Book" summary of the economy said inflation indicators were inconclusive but there were upward pressures on wages.

Trinity International Holdings, the regional newspaper publisher, announced sharply higher pre-tax profits of £23.8m, a rise of 79 per cent, reflecting for the first time its acquisition of Thomson's non-Scottish regional titles in January. Turnover doubled to £165.3m. The company is still in an acquisitive mood, having looked at Caledonian Publishing and Westminister Press this year. It is believed to be interested in the regional titles put up for sale last month by United News & Media.

 Classic FM, the national radio station, issued a writ against NTL, the transmission company, claiming damages of £3m. The radio station claimed NTL had not worked hard enough to change the terms of its contract with the BBC, under which NTL and the BBC share transmission sites. Under that contract, NTL charges third parties a per-user fee for access to BBC masts, which are also used to carry BBC's Radio 1,2,3, and 4. Classic FM, therefore, pays 50 per cent of the costs for a single service, while the BBC pays 50 per cent for four radio services.

• Garth Riley, chief executive of Telspec, the troubled telecommunications equipment maker, is to step down to head the company's European subsidiary. His demotion, which follows the departure of former finance director Russell Woolley earlier in the year, came as the group confirmed that it had plunged to a £6m loss in the six months to June, after profits of £4.27m last time.

• Christie's International, the auctioneers, is raising its interim dividend by 85 per cent to 1.2p after profits raced up 57 per cent to £15.9m in the six months to June.

Hotel breaks with THE INDEPENDENT 2 nights for the price of 1

he Independent and the Independent on Sunday would like to invite you to take a hotel break and enjoy two nights for the price of one Simply pay for one night's bed and breakfast

and you will get the next night, including breakfast, free. Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room. All the participating hotels are members of the Minotel consortium and many will allow you to enjoy a longer stay on the same basis; pay for

two nights and stay for four, for example. You

can check this with your chosen hotel when you make your initial reservation. There are 70 Minotel hotels participating in this offer, all of which are located in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. All the hotels offer top-class comfort and pride themselves on providing a personal service that many larger establishments cannot match. This Friday in The Independent we will print a list of all the participating Minotel hotels with a brief de-

scription of each. Pictured today is Derryhale Hotel in Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland, where a twin or double room will cost you £80 for one night.

How to Qualify To qualify for your 2 for 1 break, you must collect three differently numbered tokens from the seven we are printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday and attach them to the voucher which is printed today. Then follow the booking procedure detailed on this page. Also printed today is the confirmaton booking form. You only need to fill this in if you are not paying by credit card. Today we print Token 6; Token 7 will be printed in tomorrow's Independent.



Terms and Conditions

1. To participate in our 2 for 1 offer you must collect 3 differently numbered tokens and attach them to a voucher which will be printed on Thursday 12 Separabler along with a confirmation booking form.

2. The voucher may be redeemed at any participating Minotel hotel (from the hotel list printed in The Independent on Friday 13 September) for one free night's bed and breakfast for two people in a standard twin or double bedded room when the first night's bed and breakfast is prepurchased at the price indicated.

3. Some hotels, at the proprietor's discretion, will accept the voucher for longer stays on the same basis, so you can stay for 4 nights for the price of 2 for example. Please check with your chosen hotel when making your booking.

tel when making your booking.

4. The voucher does not cover payment for any other meals or service that may be requested by the er meals or service that may be requested by an inder and cannot be used with any other offer, saving or discount that may be available at the hotel.

5. One child, under the age of 12 years at the time. of booking and sharing a room with two adults will be accommodated free of charge but all meals.

of the descriptions and prices contained in this offer have been supplied by participating hotels. While every effort has been made to consure their accuracy prior to publication, no responsibility can be taken by Newspaper Publishing pic. Charterhouse Promotions or Minotel for any error, omissions or changes that may take place afterwards sions or changes that may take place afterwards

without notice. 7. No bookings will be accepted for Bank holiday periods.

8. All bookings must be made no more than six weeks in advance of your proposed date of arrival.

9. Vouchers are valid from 1 October 1996 - 30

April 1997. Vouchers must be surrendered on arrival at the hotel and can be used on one occasion only.

11. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not

1. All bookings must be made by telephone di-rect with each individual hotel. Callers must iden-tify themselves as "Independent 2 for 1 voucher

holders" as some hotels may have standard or su-

perior rooms available at normal rates when their allocation of 2 for 1 rooms is full.

2. All bookings must be pre-paid and reservations can be confirmed over the telephone by credit card can be common over use temporary of the holders at most hotels.

3. Voucher holders wishing to pay by other methods can make a provisional booking by phone which the hotel will keep open for 48 hours pend-

ing receipt of the confirmation booking form and payment which will be acknowledged by the ho-tel on the day it is received. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement within seven days, you are advised to contact the hotel. 4. No-shows or cancellations less than 14 days prior to the anticipated date of arrival at the hotel or to the anticipated date of arrival at the hotel will render the voucher invalid and the holder fiable for payment in full for each night booked,
including those previously offered free.

5. All bookings made under this promotion are
subject to availability and to the selected hotel's
own terms and conditions, except where those conditions may differ from these in which ease these
conditions shall prevail.

THE INDEPENDENT Confirmation Booking Form Please Note: If you have confirmed your booking by credit card you do not need to use this form to confirm your reservation. Only fill in this form it you wish to pay by other means, after you have made your provisional booking by telephone. Number of nights to be paid for (1/2 the number shown above) Signed THE INDEPENDENT Hotel Breaks: 2 nights for the price of 1 Voucher The voucher is only valid from 1 October 1996 - 30 April 1897. It is only valid when timee differently numbered blooms from The Independent/Independent on Sunday are attached.

It is this voucher with you to your hotel, as it must be surrendered on anneal at the hotel's reception.

The voucher is only redompable at participating Minotel hotels when presented in the with the terms and conditions as printed in The Independent/Independent on Sunday promotion (7 - 12 September 1996).





Reuters eloquence speaks volumes to taxman

On the face of it. Reuters has chosen an unnecessarily complicated way of returning money to shareholders with its special dividend share. The more you think about it, however, the eleverer it looks, SBC Warburg, the investment bank that helped draw up the proposal, has an even better word for it. "Eloquent", is how they like to describe it round there. Whether the Inland Revenue finds it quite so elever is another thing.

Over the past three years the Revenue must have lost out to the tune of well over £1bn as a result of the various wheezes the City has dreamt up to enable big tax-exempt shareholders like pension funds to claim a tax credit on any corporate distribution over and above ordinary dividends. First we had the off-market tender offer (Reuters again, that one), then the enhanced scrip dividend, then the share buy-back, or "on-market agency cross to use the technical jargon. Now there is an even newer technology to add to the armoury, the special dividend share. All these schemes vary a little in their underlying commercial purpose, but the effect is always the same; they enable the big pension funds to claim a 20 per cent tax credit on all the extra money paid out.

You can argue about the morality, the pros and cons, and the mechanics of this until the cows come home, but the basic point remains the same - well over £1bn that

sions industry a rather better home for the money than the politicians, the Revenue must none the less be getting mighty pissed off. Sure, the law allows companies to do this. But you can bet your boots they wouldn't be paying out their cash on quite this scale were it not for the fact that the only loser in the process seems to be the poor old

Inland Revenue. The law was surely never

designed with this eventuality in mind.

The Reuters scheme has added a new dimension to the debate. Reuters claims it would have done a share buy-back but for the fact that American securities law is incompatible with a buy-back that would allow institutions the tax benefits. So it has chosen this route, which has the added attraction of allowing the 37.5p-a-share special distribution to be spread over three years. The other point of the special dividend share is that the extra income becomes divorced from the company, like an annuity or a split capital trust. All very cloquent.

But the real cloquence seems to lie in an area which Reuters is none too keen to trumpet - the way it allows all shareholders, taxable and tax-exempt alike, to benefit from the tax credit. What Reuters is doing is securitising the extra dividends in a special div-

Britain's burgeoning social security budget, has ended up with City pension fund managers. While many of us might think the penagers. While many of us might think the penagers. gross and the net value of the dividends. As a result ordinary tax-paying shareholders will share in the benefits of non-tax-payers. Mmmm, the men in bowler hats round at Somerset House must be thinking.

Bonsuses regardless at Morgan

Many in the City will have a deep and weary understanding of why Deutsche Morgan Grenfell will need to pay millions of pounds in bonuses to its fund management

staff early next year.

Like Barings, where ING had to pay bonuses regardless of Nick Leeson's losses. the value of a company such as Morgan Grenfell Asset Management rests not just on brand name and client lists, but on the expertise and contacts of the employees too. The best people will be sitting ducks for poachers if they receive no bonuses when they are due to be paid next February or

The purist would none the less argue that no bonuses should be paid, indeed that to pay them merely encourages the lack of col-legiate responsibility and sloppiness that allowed Peter Young to flourish. Morgan's bonus system is not linked to the short-term would otherwise be lying in the public purse idend share. When traded, this share can be based on a rolling assessment of profits over national causes as the Eurofighter and dividends to a non-tax-paying fund; they several years plus a discretionary element for

Deutsche of Peter Young's investment mys-tery tour is £180m, the amount injected into the funds. That figure represents seven years' profits for the fund management arm, and it is also equivalent to a year's profit for

the whole Morgan Grenfell group.

The cost is almost certain to rise, when compensation to investors and regulatory fines are thrown into the pot. On any rea-sonable view, Morgan Grenfell Asset Man-agement executives should be left without sweeteners until past the millenium. Obviously, that is not going to happen, for if Deutsche were to do this it would soon have no business at all.

All the same Deutsche must be wondering about a system which, though it boasts a collegiate structure of control, has everyone running for the door the moment they are required to talke real monetary responsibility for their colleagues' misdemeanours

Twitchy days at the National Grid

Not many complaining days left until Pro-fessor Stephen Littlechild decides just how hard to clobber the electricity transmission industry and the boys around at the

National Grid are starting to get twitchy. In their formal response to the Prof's proposed new price controls they have at last managed to generate sufficient rage to utter | extracting more than a token concession.

the phrase "expropriation". That's more like it. This is the kind of language guaranteed to get institutional shareholders hot under the collar and it has worked

Funds owning nearly a third of the shares have written to the watchdog warning him to back off otherwise they will tell the Grid to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mobilising shareholder support is now a familar tactic among regulated monopolies at the wrong end of price reviews. British Gas got Sids to write in by the sackful bleating about Clare Spottiswoode's treatment of TransCo.

Sadly, it had precious little effect on her final proposals. Notwithstanding the higher calibre of the Grid's correspondents, it should not count on doing any better. Even as they stand, the price controls would shave only £4 off the average bill and require annual efficiency gains of no more than 4 per cent. So he is unlikely to be in the mood to make big concessions.

In any event the Grid and the Prof appear

to be nudging closer together on valuation and estimates of efficiency gains. True, this and estimates of entitled galls. The this is partly down to the depressing effect his initial proposals have had on the Grid's shares. The "market-based" value of it regulated assets, even if both sides agree the telecoms business Energis is worth nothing. is £4bn. The Grid may have less to lose than BT or British Gas from going to the MMC. But it should not count on the threat

Hanson backs EU works councils

BARRIE CLEMENT and JOJO MOYES

Hanson Group, one of the Conservative Party's biggest financial backers, yesterday ignored the member states have to set up Government's opt-out from the councils. Maastricht Treaty and included European works councils.

Initially reluctant to establish European-wide systems of consultation for employees, Hancouncils in its operating commust set up such structures by 22 September or face imposition from Brussels.

The opt-out from the treaty would have allowed the company to exclude UK employees. but the board has decided to include them.

All 27 British-based multiannounced plans for works counts, a donation of £100,000 environment.

councils have failed to take advantage of the escape clause negotiated by John Major. Companies with 1,000 employees in the EU and 150 in two

Referring to a council set up British workers in plans for at Hanson Brick, Allan Black, national officer at the GMB general union, said he was pleased the group had "recog-nised the value of this internason has decided to create tional dialogue". He said the company had accepted that panies before a deadline expires workers and managers could in 10 days. Big multi-nationals solve many issues and problems before they arose.

"Works councils are now an established form of industrial relations. The Government can barely continue with their 'outout' when Tory flagships such as Hanson are signing Euro deals with the GMB."

According to the conglom-rate's latest reports and ac-

was made in the year to last September 1995.

A spokesman for Hanson said that decisions to establish consultation processes under the European directive had been made by individual operating companies. He was unaware that the group had

changed its mind on the issue. In a statement, Hanson Brick said its employee forum would focus principally on the company's performance and overali strategy.

Matters to be discussed might include changes in corporate structure, the economic and financial situation and the competitive position. Also to be revealed at the works council would be important plans for production, sales and employment. Representatives on the council would also be informed about health and safety, trainng policy, new products and the

Unemployment figures hit five-year low

DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 15,600 in August to the lowest level for more than five years and the summer saw a big increase in employment. Yet underlying earnings growth remained unchanged in July for

the sixth month running. However, unemployment measured by the quarterly

cepted definition, showed an increase of 11,000 in the three months to May.

Ministers have not decided whether to accept the recom-mendation of independent experts to introduce a monthly LFS, according to the Treasury. Meanwhile the divergence between the two unemployment measures left economists divided yesterday about whether

growth picking up soon.

The headline claimant count

has fallen for six months running, taking the level of unemployment to 2.1 million and the unemployment rate to 7.5 per cent - both the lowest since March 1991. Employment jumped by 118,000 in the three months to June following a drop of 23,000 during the pre-

vious three months. Three quarters of the new

Labour Force Survey, which uses the internationally-ac-growth picking up soon.

jobs in April-June were full duced the number of job place-time, and higher employment in ments. services more than compen-

There was additional comfort sated for a small decline in manabout inflation prospects in the latest figure for underlying average earnings growth, which remained at 3.75 per cent. ufacturing.
A further signal of strength in the jobs market was an in-

The pace of increase in man-ufacturing was unchanged at 4.0 per cent, compared to 4.25 per cies at Jobcentres, to the highest for seven-and-a-half years. cent a year earlier. In services However, official statisticians it was 3.75 per cent, up from 3.5 warned the level was exaggerper cent the previous month and ated by the introduction of a computer system which had re- 2.5 per cent a year earlier.

Future of Co-operative Bank is virtually assured

JILL TREANOR

Banking Correspondent

Co-operative Bank, which prides itself on its ethical stance, will close its branches by the end of the century and replace them with booths in which customers will talk to staff through a video-link. By the end of this year, the bank will have closed 10 per cent of its branches. "It's part of our cost savings, moving phone banking sector.

from the old way of banking

to the new," said Terry Thomas, managing director. The bank, wholly owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, yesterday said its interim profits were a record £25.1m, up 24 per cent. Mr Thomas believed the closure of 100 or so branches would not lead to redundancies because the staff would be deployed in the bank's expanding tele-

A few staff will be needed for the video-links and to visit the new "tardis"-like outlets, of which there are likely to be

around 100. The move to cut costs is part of the Co-op Bank's aim to slash its ratio of costs to income, which at 75 per cent is much higher than other institutions in its sector.

through branch closures but to "go back to basics", pulling worst polluters.

the Co-op's plans go one stage out of mortgage lending and further,

crease in the number of vacan-

All of its 2 million retail customers are given access to Thomas said the bank was increasing telephone access for its corporate clients.

He became managing director in 1988, at a time when many banks were beginning to Most other banks are ex- face up to the reality of mount- unnamed water company beploring ways to cut costs ing bad debts. His answer was cause it was one of the sector's

concentrating on selling an ethical approach to banking.

Yesterday the bank launched telephone banking, and Mr a national poster campaign to hammer home the message that it takes this approach

Mr Thomas said the bank recently refused a potentially lucrative account from a big

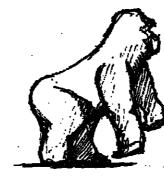
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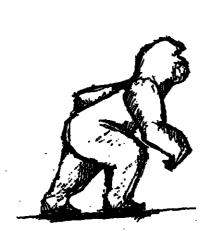
THE INDEPENDENT

A revolution in the education marketplace

Starting 10th October 1996



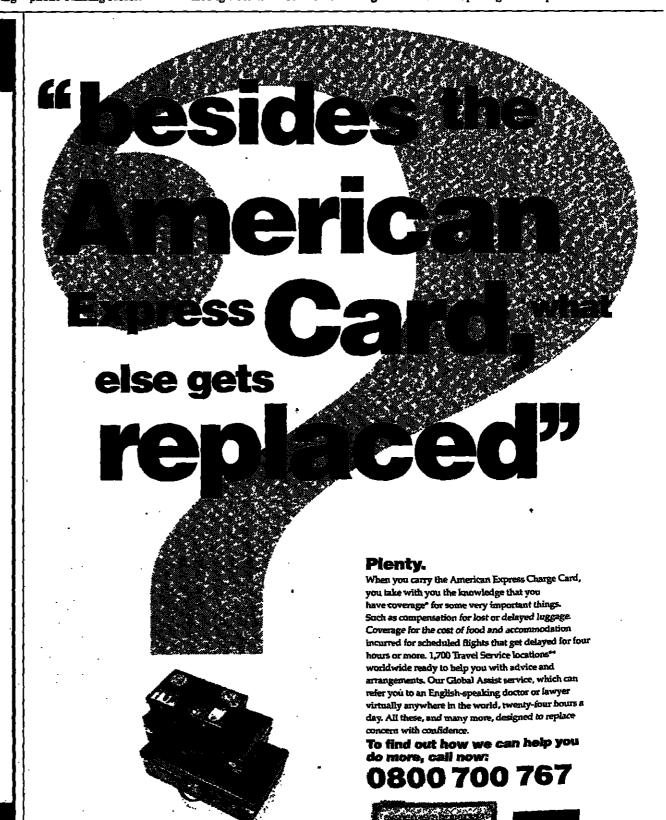






ON 10TH OCTOBER 1996, THE INDEPENDENT IS LAUNCHING A PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT DEDICATED TO EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION. THE SECTION WILL FOCUS ON ISSUES OF THE DAY AS WELL AS BEING FUN, GOSSIPY AND AN INTERESTING READ.

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1953.5 6.0 SEAQ VOLUME 661m shares, 35,893 bargains Gilts Index

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tension in Iraq pushed the crude price sharply higher, prompting the predictable knee-jerk reaction among oil shares. The latest encounter increases the risk to the West's oil supplies at a time the crude market is experiencing its nor-

mal winter build-up.
The Iraqi flare up has already ended, for the foreseeable future, the proposed food-for-oil deal that would have allowed Saddam Hussein to pour limited amounts of Iraqi oil on to world market. British Petroleum led the

pack higher, gaining 9p to a 646p peak. Shell rose 8.5p to 966.5p; Enterprise Oil 7.5p to

Oils disturbed the stock mar-ket's slumber. The deepening forced to give ground in thin

trading. Thorn, the rental side of the old Thorn EMI combination, suffered the expected humiliation of being kicked out of Footsie at the first call over. A place had to be found for LucasVarity and Thorn's poor performance since the demerger made it the obvious casnalty. The rental group, little changed at 369.5p, has suffered this week from worries some

US states plan to tighten their consumer credit rules. Lucas fell 1.5p to 238p. RTZ, the mining giant, had an uneasy session ahead of in-terim figures due today. Shares of CRA, its Australian sister,



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

shareholders today.

Stock market reporter of the year the banking profit warning. The fall would no doubt have been even Barciays, roup, was the best-performsteeper if the powerful PDFM ng blue chip, up 20p to 948.5p fund management group had Laing had turned bullish not decided to move into the on suggestions Credit Lyonnais Abbey National put on 8.5p to market and buy 1.7 million

602p, reflecting Panmure Gordon support. Renters' intriguing share buy-back lifted the shares 14p to 764p. It is to hand to shareholders some £600m of its £900m cash pile through special shares which will pay six drug. Glaxo, down 7p to 941p, has for some time had an op-tion to evaluate BritBio's asthma treatment.

Racal Electronics was firm at 300p ahead of an analysts' meeting and T&N, another entertaining analysts, lost 2p to

ting, the aviation group. flew 5.5p higher to 144p on suggestions Cobham could be considering a strike, the agreed offer for British Data Management nudged the shares 2p higher to 176.5p; bidder Mentshares, lifting its shareholding more Abbey rose 5p to 87p.

British Steel fell 3.25p to to 18.8 per cent. Matthew Clark said it had been hit by the growth of alco-

188.75p on Merrill Lynch caupops. Its big rival HP Bulmer, tion and utilities suffered from hanged at 552.5p, meets its the Labour Party's planned

shake-up.
Anagen lost 9p to 23.5p after warning a cash-raising op-

Ahead of figures today Memory Corporation, repairing defective computer chips, lost 3.5p to 31p. The results are expected to be depressingly weak. Memory is thought to have been devastated by the

collapse in chip prices. Easynet was another under pressure, falling 7p to 46p. The Internet service provider has had a worrying time since enjoying a high-profile debut on AIM in March. Placed at 100p, the shares shot to 130p

before starting what has been a steady decline. Eurodis Electron, the electronic components distributor, lost 12p to 185.5p following an uninspiring trading statement. Earlier this year the shares were riding above 300p as the market awaited a takeover bid, to be triggered by the signalled sale of Swiss group

| Ronson's £10.4m cash call looks like flopping. Shares of the former brewery, being reshaped as an international luxury goods group by former funeral undertaker Howard Hodgson, fell to 25.5p, just 0.5p above the

TAKING STOCK

The nil paid halved to 1p. rights price. A US small companies fund, Albion, is pumping in £1m for a 5 per cent stake and sub underwriting the rights; it could end with 22.3 per cent. Ronson's profits were decimated by a fire at its Newcastle factory.

[]Watermark, a promotions group run by a former stock-broker John Caulcutt, should produce profits of more than £500,000 this year against a £60,000 loss last time. It arrived on AIM last

Scotia, the drugs group, was another under pressure for the second day, falling 29p to dividends of 125p over the experienced a weak run, eration, through a private 524.5p and Burmah Castrol month at 13p; the shares are prompting suspicions the re-sults could contain some nasty next three years. 662.5p, making a 71p decline.

British Biotech fell 6p to Elektrowatt's 42 per cent shareholding. But the Swiss failed to find a buyer. placing of convertible loan Matthew Clark, the cider 7.5p to 1,113.5p.
The rest of the market had stock, was under way. The maker, had another crushing currently 20p. 199p. There was talk Glaxo surprises. RIZ fell 27p to shares of the healthcare group difficulty managing a yawn. Detime. The shares crashed 75.5p 930.5p. BTR, ahead of its cru-Wellcome had decided to end to 355.5p, an astonishing 314.5p decline since Tuesday's spite another flood of largely topped 100p last year. cial figures today, shaded 2p to its relationship over an asthma encouraging company results investor interest was again low SORDIFMAMIJAS 20 per cent, as a percentage of the state of the yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the state price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the state price divided by last year's earnings per state, excluding exceptional items. Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u United Securities Market's Suspended pp Partly Paid pm-NE Paid Shares. \$ AM Stock Share Price Data The independent index The index allows you to access resisting share prices by phone from Sead, Simply C Sterling Plates 04 Bullion Report 05 Wall St Report 20 Tokyo Market 21 with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a details, and index, including its portfolio facility, phone istance, call our helpline 0171 873 4375 (930am - 530pm). 550000 Royel & Sun 550000 Alabay National 820000 Grand Met. FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour The state of the s See the second s 28 Sandry Construction of Cons THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O 1985 2000
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Executive leg draws BT's old seadogs

BUSINESS & PEOPLE

Ahoy, me hearties! The 14 boat crews taking part in the round the world yacht race sponsored by BT are in their last stages of preparation, before they set off for their 30,000 mile odyssey at the end of the month.

rned

Dr Alan Rudge, deputy chief executive of BT, is crewing a boat for one of the legs, between Wellington in New Zealand and Sydney.

Australia.
Dr Rudge is no stranger to boats - he sails his own 45foot yacht out of Port Hamble on the South Coast. "I'm the sort of Godfather to the BT Global Challenge," he says, referring to the race. He persuaded the

BT to sponsor the race after British Steel subbed the first one four years ago.

Fourteen different companies are sponsoring each boat, including Courtaulds and Group 4. Many of the crews have never sailed be-

fore, although all the captains are professionals.
"We had 2,000 applicants when we advertised 30 crew places internally," says Dr Rudge. It's an expensive exercise. It costs each crew member £18,000 to go, or

£5,000 for a single leg. Dr Rudge says that he is doing the Tasman Sea leg because it is the briefest, at only nine weeks. It would be impossible to get any more

time off from BT, he adds. Many other senior business men have plumped for the same section of the race, prompting one cynical sea-dog to dub it "the chief exec-utives' leg".

Robert Peel, chief executive of Thistle Hotels, which is about to float, has come a long way since he left Eton aged 16. Now 49, Mr Peel has carved out a profile for himself in the hotel industry, not least by driving a flash Cadillac for the last 19 years.

Mr Peel is a descendant of the 19th century prime min-ister Robert Peel, who invented the British bobby. The family of the present day Mr Peel ran businesses in Egypt until they were kicked out by Nassar in 1956.

After school young Robert toured the great hotels of Europe, picking up valuable experience, and ended up running the oldestyle Quaglino's in London in 1970. while in his early twenties.

Then he teamed up with his brother Charlie, a stockbroker then working for Fielding Newson Smith, and in 1976 they had their big break. The famed Jim Slater was on his uppers, and sold a chunk of Mount Charlotte

Investments to the brothers, mania of the time and Robert became chief executive and used it as a vehicle.



Messing about in boats: Alan Rudge has settled for one leg of the odyssey

tired seaside hotels. Then in 1989 he succumbed to the bought Thistle hotels from Scottish & Newcastle for

Interest rates doubled and ed from Brierley Invest-Sir Ron Brierley swooped. ments, which still owns 70 The New Zealander bought per cent of Thistle, the rest the company, but Robert survived as chief executive. going to the Singapore gov-ernment. Robert will still Sir Ron in turn was ejectoversee the "Thistle-isation"

of the group's acquisitions after the float, while brother Charlie has his own stock-broking house, Peel Hunt.

Robin Hall, managing direc-tor of CINven, is still smarting after his beloved Arsenal's 3-2 defeat at the hands of Borussia Monche-

ngladbach this week. He's attempted to cheer himself up by hiring a new director, four new investment managers and a marketing manager for the venture capital group.

Since the management of CINven bought out the com-pany from British Coal last October it has broadened its business, says Mr Hall. The firm needs new blood for its spanking new Old Broad Street offices in the City.

Along with a new £200m buyout fund which CINven is raising comes this clutch of appointments. The new director is Yagnish Chotai, currently deputy managing

director of Gresham Trust. The four investment managers, all qualified accountants and all under 30, are: David Barker, senior financial analyst with Morgan Crucible; Stuart McAlpine, who moves from the acquisition finance arm of Royal Bank of Scotland; Gordon Moore, formerly a corporate financier with SBC Warburg: and Dominic Murphy, who was an investment executive

John Willcock | 173- Final (1)- Interior 179 per

COMPANY RESULTS									
	Turaqver £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend					
Autocume Group (F)	49.4m (31.8m)	5.05m (4.61m)	15p (18.1p)	8.5p (Bp)					
ABP (I)	122m (116m)	46.9m (43.5m)	9.2p (8.8p)	3.Sp (3p)					
Antologasia Hidgs (1)	95.2m (87.8m)	27,9m (51,6m)	19.1p (24.2p)	2p (2p)					
Berr & Walter (1)	116m (129m)	9.90m (0.73m)	3.5p (3.2p)	3.25p (3p)					
British Data Magnett(F)	19.0m (17.0m)	2.65m (1.58m)	6.3p (3.8p)	3.75p (-)					
British-Serant Pat (I)	27.0m (20.5m)	10.9m (7.51m)	13.75p (11.48p)	3p (2.667p)					
Custs Viyelia (i)	1.60ba (1.26ba)	47.0m (70.8m)	4p (5.6p)	4.625p (4.625p)					
Chalgiles Intl (1)	106m (91,4m)	15.9rc (10.1m)	5.94p (3.63p)	1.2p (0.65p)					
Co-operative Stank (1)	-(-)	25.tm (20.3m)	2.11p (1.68m)	†4.625p (-)					
James Cremt (f)	k155m (k131m)	1r7.53m (tr8.01m)14p (12.7p)	6.50 (-)					
Development Secs (I)	8.2m (11.9m)	1.4m (0.6m)	4.5p (1.7p)	0.9p (0.8p)					
Expenses test (i)	60.5m (71.1m)	12.2m (-28.8m)	15.98p (-47.2p)	1.45p (1.35p)					
Fitch (I)	9.95m (7,71m)	1,14m (0.82m)	2.1p (1.3p)	· (-)					
Govelage (f)	31.5m (29.5m)	0.14m (0.21m)	1.06p (1.74p)	7p (1p)					
Heyerood Williams (I)	311m (264m)	15.3m (24.0m)	9.3p (19p)	Sp (5p)					
Independent News (I)	k183m (r168m)	1:28.0m(1:20.4m)	6.74p (5.88p)	2.3p (2.05p)					
insteen (i)	10.7m (11.2m)	0.40m (0.58m)	5.6p (8.4p)	1.5p (1.5p)					
Kinglisher (1)	2.54bn (2.28bn)	110m (74.6m)	11.7p (8.2p)	5p (4.5p)					
London Forfalting (1)	- (-)	16.6m (11.1m)	11.68p (7.87p)	3.7p (3.4p)					
Mirror Group (1)	277m (248m)	51.9m (57.0m)	9.1p (11.1p)	1.35p (1.2p)					
Pageod's Broup (I)	2.53m (2.95m)	0.02m (0.07m)	-4.93p (1.05p)	- (-)					
Presider OIL (F)	56,9m (36.4m)	27.7m (14.0m)	1.87g	- (-)					
PTS Group (I)	34.4m (28.0m)	1.01m (0.86m)	3.4p (3.2p)	1.3p (1.2p)					
Predestiel (I)	- (+)	361m (499m)	12.9p (20.2p)	5.8p (5.3p)					
Stat-Pine (f)	6.98m (7.08m)	2.09m (1.86m)	6.6p (5.8p)	5.13p (4.75p)					
Talepac (I)	35.0m (27.9m)	-6.0m (4.27m)	-15.75p (8.98p)	nii (1.8p)					
Try Group (I)	74.2m (58.6m)	0.36m (-1.77m)	0.52p (-2.55p)	rall (mil)					
Water City of Landon (f)	- ()	1.55m (-0.21m)	0.5p (-0.24p)	r# (-)					

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· Brazil	15838	10184	Pakistan	57A382	369330
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inda	55,4252	35,6500	Tafwan	42.7587	274940
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*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocels.

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Long Git	(Sap 96)	107-08	107-11		1356	32163
German Bond	(Dec 96)	9706	97.18		257958	195268
1@Bond	(Dec 96)	12127	1214		2581	
Italien Bond	(Dec 96)	1991	11698		52386	59895
Ski Sterling	(Sep 96)	947	9478	94.16	4877	63287
O15	(Dec 96)	9438	9438		1065	110967
ЗМ Ештуеп	(Dec 66)	99.27	99.27	9927	<u>67</u>	MA
614 E	(Mar 97)	99.07 96.87	9907 9887	9907	125	MA
SNA Euronsark	(Sep 96)		9630	9584 9674	20018	53953
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500	3284	3526	284	(Accum Units)	100900	107500	2,47	ĺ
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England's defiant international squad have been warned to attend next week's training session after boycotting the first of the season in favour of a meeting called by the English Pro-

fessional Rugby Union Clubs
The players will stage a gettogether at the end of this week with their clubs' organisation as the internal row rumbles on despite the settlement of the Five Nations feud. They will decide on a policy about future relationships with Twickenham specifically whether to turn up to next week's training session.

Last week more than 40 players declined to go to Bisham Abbey and the squad session was cancelled. Instead, the squad attended a meeting with Epruc at which they agreed to their employers "vision for the future". That vision involved 'complete independence" from the RFU by First and Second

Division clubs. The RFU, probably reluc-tantly allowed the players to get away unpenalised with their unique strike action. They may not be so lenient if a second

squad session is disrupted. The RFU secretary, Tony Hallett, said: 'I'm expecting them to turn up. I believe Epruc made a serious gesture last time. They wanted to make it clear to us that, when they were talking about a breakaway, they were serious. They are putting a considerable amount of investment into the playing strengths of this country and they want that recognition. We have got to accept it. Contracts for players are due out this week. Clubs don't know, nor do the players, what will be on the table.

It's a lot better than last year." Hallett is also confident about sorting out the Epruc dispute. saying: "The gloves may be off but we are still talking. I don't believe the clubs wish to break

ly that the players want to play for England, they don't want to be caught in the crossfire."

He admitted that the selectors would choose an England team from outside the top two divisions if the dispute cannot be settled. "In the doomsday scenario, we would have to pick the best that was available in England," he said. "We would have to keep international representative sides going. I don't believe it would ever come to that. There is too much pride, too much heart in playing for England. Most peo-

ple would play for nothing." Australia are still hopeful they can ressurrect a fixture against England at Twickenham in December. Australia's Rugby Union chief executive, John O'Neill, said he would speak to his English counterparts in a bid to include the match on their European tour schedule.

Australia, who have already scheduled Tests against Ireland Wales and Scotland during their eight-week European tour, announced on Tuesday that they would play England on 7 De-cember. But the Four Home Unions Tour Committee chairman, Ray Williams, dismissed the announcement, saying it was too late to change the tour schedule. O'Neill, who is keen for the Wallabies to complete their first Grand Slam tour since 1984, said: "The Rugby Football Union has got a meeting on Friday where they are going to consider the matter.

Ireland's match against Australia has been brought forward one week to 23 November. The change in date was made in response to a request from the Welsh Rugby Union for one of the six matches that had been allocated to Ireland for the tour. Ireland surrendered the fixture between Ireland A and the Wallabies on 26 November and in return will have a match against the All Blacks next season.

ometimes the script works out perfectly. If there was

fy his monster salary, it was the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, the annual love-fest for the tifosi, Fer-

Win he did, and the only losers are likely to be the Italian organisers,

who face a whopping fine for the

inevitable invasion of the track af-

ter Schumacher's victory.
There was one other big loser, though: Damon Hill, Formula

One's Mr Honest, who gamely

admitted that the tyre-clonking

incident that spun him out of a

comfortable lead was entirely his

own fault. The championship re-

mains tantalisingly out of his reach,

points respectively. Their deter-

mined drives may have been mo-

tivated by the fact that both are on

one-year contracts with the team,

and a certain D. Hill is on the look-

Pedro Diniz has been loudly pro-

claiming that he is ready for a dri-

out for a comfy seat next year.

rari's dedicated fans.

the warm-up.

one race that Michael Schumacher simply had to win to justi-

Canada's icemen cool in front of goal



Cup in Philadelphia. Canada beat the States 4-3 in overtime in the opening game of the best-of-three finals

Wales forgive and forget to include Gibbs and Co squad while Cardiff's Steve

Wales finally forgave the play-ers who turned their backs on rugby union for northern money by including four former league internationals in a squad of 35 announced yesterday.

Swansea's Scott Gibbs and Stnart Evans, David Young of Cardiff and Bath's Richard Webster were all given the chance to

resurrect their international union careers when they were

named in the preparation squad for Wales' forthcoming matches against France, Italy, Australia and South Africa. Gibbs, who enjoyed a successful two-year stint at St Helens, last represented Wales in union in 1993. There was no place, howev-

er, for the former Wigan forward Scott Quinnell or for Jonathan Davies. Quinnell was left on the sidelines after being accused of wanting a gnaranteed sum for playing for Wales, over and above that being offered to Welsh Rugby Union contracted players, although he has istently denied this.

rector of rugby, said: "Contractual negotiations with Scott are on-going and we hope they will be put in place before the match against Australia in November."

Andy Moore, the Richmond scrum-half, who was not available for the Test against the Barbarians last month, is back in the

Ford, the winger, and Emyr Lewis, the flanker, have both been overlooked.

After meeting France, Wales play Italy in Rome on 5 October before entertaining Australia in Cardiff on 1 December and South Africa on 15 December. Squad, Digest, page 27 The Cougger power

Welsh are relegated to save red faces

Rugby League

South Wales have been relegated from Super League without ever throwing a pass or taking a tackle. The Cardiff based club were accepted into Super League for next season, subject to conditions on finance and playing strength, only two months ago. But a meeting of the Rugby League Council yesterday reversed that decision by inviting them to compete in the First Division instead.

From the information they gave us, they would have been doomed to ignominy in Super League," the league's chief ex-ecutive, Maurice Lindsay, said. We are concerned about the availability of some of the players they say they are hoping to sign. It would not do the game any good if they were to be sent into obliviou after one season."

The team behind the South Wales club, including the Welsh national coach, Clive Griffiths, were told of the council's decision last night. They will now have to decide whether to swallow the pill, sweetened with an offer of £250,000 to help them build up to the standard needed to win promotion into Super League under their own steam.

The council meeting also agreed a revised allocation of money from News Corporation for next season with Super League and First Division clubs getting slightly more and those in the Second Division marginally less. Apart from the saving involved in South Wales not being in Super League, the league has put extra income from sponsorship and television rights into the pot to keep clubs sweet.

St Helens have officially joined Sheffield in pursuit of Warrington's £1.35m listed lestyn Harris. "We are not cash rich, but we would kick ourselves if we missed a chance to sign lestyn," their chief execu-tive, David Howes, said.

Saints' Apollo Perelini has become the first winner of the Rugby League Writers Association's player of the year award.

ENCASTER

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THE INDEPENDENT

Grand Prix Shopping List

GRAND PRIX **'96 RACE** SCHEDULE

Portuguese GP September 22 Japanese GP October 13

Gyerall Top 50 Dream

Teams Thirty-five teams are in joint 1st position with 578 points, Afteon teams are is joint 2md position with 568 points 1 Jumpin' Jacks

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Peanjuree The Dare Devils 1 Dream Machines 1 Harvey 1 God's Son Bisland's Bangers Tm Alright Jacques ■ Bino One

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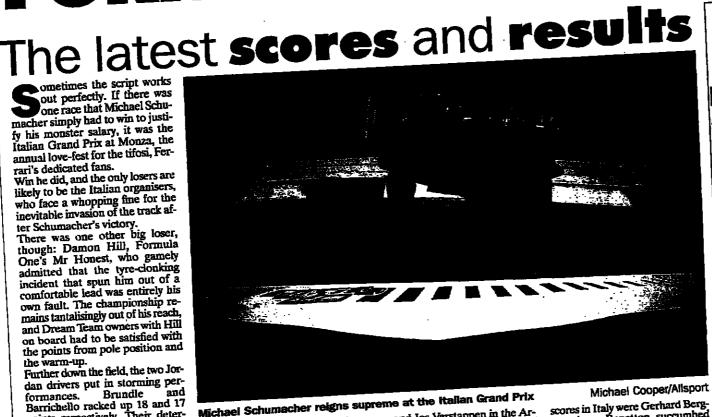
2 Catch Me Out

2 French Flyers 2 Paniville

2 They Think It's All Over F1 2 Kwest International

to be suggesting that \$30m would be a suitable wage for his services in 1998. He will be worth every cent.

The Cartifornia in the Committee of the



Michael Schumacher reigns supreme at the Italian Grand Prix ve with a top team, and his im-

pressive run at Monza may indeed have persuaded one or two team managers to look beyond his wallet to the talent that lies behind it. Others to add to previously paltry scores were Tyrrell's Ukyo Kataya. DRIVER OF THE DAY:

> Schumi is usually an enthusiastic celebrator of his grand prix victories, but his leaps for joy on the

Monza podium suggested relief and the lift-

ing of a burden: this was the one race of

the year that he absolutely had to win-

Ferrari's dedicated fans took some time

to warm to the German, but anyone who

wins at Monza in one of the scarlet cars

has their place in the fans' hearts for

ever more. Now he can safely ask for

an even bigger salary to extend his stry with the Maranello team even further.

Schumacher's Dream Team value

was £25m. In real life, he is rumoured

rows. Jos, in particular, will have been glad to see the chequered flag, having been much too inclined to practise high-speed parking with his car in recent races. The only drivers to collect negative

Michael Cooper/Allsport scores in Italy were Gerhard Berg-er, whose Benetton succumbed early on to a mysterious electronic gremlin in the gearbox, and Olivier Panis, who had handbrake trouble on the grid and collided with Katayama early in the race.

WIN a drive in a grand prix car

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize – a drive in a 650bhp F1

You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhibiturating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the recover and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single sent cars.

WIN A TRIP TO THE 1997 SPANISH GRAND PRIX You can enter our Formula 1 Dream Team game at any time during the grand prix season. Even if you don't win our top prize, don't worry, there are still prizes to be won with each grand prix race. Enter for the Portuguese Grand Prix and you could win a trip to next year's Spanish Grand Prix. Get The Independent on Thursday 19 September for details on how to register.

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE WINNER Congratulations to Paul Andrews from Reading, Berkshire and his team Paul's Pacers. He has won a copy of the new book 'British Grand Prix at Silverstone 1996' signed by the race winner, Jacques Villeneuve, plus tickets to the Motorshow in October.

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The Cecil juggernaut powers on

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Doncaster

When Henry Cecil was bidding in the Keeneland Sales ring in Kentucky yesterday he could have been forgiven if he had used his middle finger to attract the auctioneer's attention.

It is the Newmarket man's overpowering wish that he should win the trainers' championship in Britain this year and so frustrate the Godolphin operation of Sheikh Mohammed from whom he parted so acrimoniously almost a year ago. Yesterday, as he enjoyed the relative balm of the Blue Grass State, Cecil leapfrogged Godol-phin at the top of the table with a double at the less salubrious setting of Town Moor.

Corradini kick-started the success, but Cecil will have gained greater satisfaction from he Park Hill Stakes victory of Eva Luna, who can almost be regarded as a "store" horse. The filly, the property of Prince Khalid Abdullah, did not run at either two or three, but showed enough on the gallops to persuade her trainer that she deserved to be kept on the roster. Henry always thought she was very useful, but at the end of last season, when she was about to

DONCASTER

2.35: Bishop Of Cashel would have

a better chance if the mud was fly-ing. One who could have too much

pace for him today is DISTANT OA-

SIS. This lightly raced filly was cer-tainly not disgraced when fourth in

the Irish 1,000 Guineas and she no

doubt needed her latest run which

3.10: This could see another close

finish between Reams Of Verse and BINT BALADEE, though neither is

followed a three-month absence.

hit the track, she had a little crack in a cannon bone," Grant Pritchard-Gordon, the winning owner's racing manager, said yesterday. "Henry begged Prince Khalid to keep her in training. Now I can sec why."

The daughter of Alleged exemplifies one of the absurdities of modern racing in that horses can be given the same name as long as a different nation of breeding in parentheses follows. This Eva Luna (USA) is not to be confused with Jim Bolger's nippy sprinter Eva Luna (IRE), principally because she is a big clumsy beast who needs all of a mile and a

half to get up to her top gear. Even though Eva Luna may have the accelerating capacity of a juggernaut she is also similarly difficult to stop. Pat Eddery's display of correction on the filly at York last time, when he earned a suspension for that particular use of a stick, would have carned him little sympathy at Strasbourg and he en-sured there would be no late recourse to the whip yesterday. Eva Luna led throughout to provide her jockey with his 150th victory of the season. The winner comes from a huge ly productive family, but she is the end of the line as her dam, the 1984 Oaks runner-up Methe 1984 Oaks runner-up Me-

HYPERION'S

ideally drawn on the outside. The lat-

ter, who lost out by a neck to today's

rival last time, could well reverse

placings. What will make things difficult is the fact that Pat Eddery



Park Stakes - Doncaster 2.30

16-1

another of vesterday's winners,

Anzio, is unlikely to be sent to

Scotland with a 7lb penalty.

"That takes some carrying and

3-1

7-2

9-2

9-2

11-2

10-1

<u> 15-1</u>

2.10 SCANIA 4-SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 2f

- 15 deckred BETTING: 4-1 Pay Housege, 9-2 Routinstains, 5-1 Matter (Firedy, 8-1 Another Time, Apache Len, 10-1 Affices Dancer, Game Ploy, 12-1 others

2.45 SILURIAN SCANIA CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,650 3YO filles 1m 2f

4-1156 EL OPERA (17) P Code B 13 ... S Sundam 3
21-2642 INNI ALHAMA (29) (EF) W R Hem 8 10 ... R Hills 4
25-2002 MISS UNIVERSAL (12) C Bottom 8 10 ... B Doyle 1
12-4300 OBSESSIVE (12) M South 8 10 ... R Cockrane 2 4 1243U USSESSITE (12) III JANUS DE SALLA

11-2

14-1

12-1

16-1

Eva Luna and Pat Eddery easily outrun their rivals in yesterday's Park Hill Stakes

Handicap. David Barron may

have told his confederates in the

pub last night that he won the

race twice as his For The Pre-

sent, another Ayr Gold Cup

possibility, was sixth but first

hop Of Cashel () Fensivave)

tructure (Mrs / Cecif

enburg (M. Johnston)

(B Hds)

Horse (Trainer)

Distant Casts (H Cecil)

dia Rosia (D Loder)

home on the far side. Barron

dia Luna, was killed by lightning

in America two years ago. Eva Luna gave heart to the team that will be represented by the favourite, Dushyantor, in Saturday's St Leger, and there are hopes that she too will develop into a Group One performer. "She's in such good form that I'm sure Henry will want to go again this season because she's just beginning to un-derstand now," Pritchard-Gordon added. "She may well stay in training because the way she galloped on today might mean she is a Cup filly."

Musical Season will certain-

now takes over on Henry Cecil's filly. Mrs Miniver, who looks to have siderable scope, could be the main danger.

3.40: LEAR WHITE has stamina and a touch of pace. Olivier Peslier can be relied upon to exploit both qual-ities in what should become a tactical race. Celeric bas to be held up

Each-way a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3 CHEPSTOW 2.10 Maradata 2.45 Min Alhawa 3.20 Mara River 3.50 Deerly 4.20 Cointosser 4.50 Ashkernazy GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Straight course - stants sale; DRAW ADVANTAGE: High up to 1m. Left-hand, undulating course.

Left-hand, undulating course.

Course is on A4GG. Chepsiow strikon 1m. ADMISSION: Club

14: Tattersalls 510 (QAPs S5). CAE PARE: Free. 514; Tatle BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Galapino (3.50); Tymeers (4.50).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Amy Leigh (4.50) has been sent 166
rules by J Wilson from Sollom, Lancs.

4.10: There is stable confidence behind My Branch. She would certainly nano my branch. See would cet any take some beating if recapturing the form of her fourth in the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket and her third in the Irish equivalent at the carry in the trish equivalent at the Curragh. High Summer, who won in handicap company last time, faces a stiff task here. It may be best to rely on DANCE SEQUENCE, whose recent performances - a second to Iktamal at Newcastle and a second to Monaassib at Yarmouth - look

it would almost be easier to win also trains the Ayr favourite, Coastal Bluff, but he will now have to transport top weight as

a Group race," Barron said. There was no such reticence from Barry Hills, who provided the information that his string was in remarkably good form after Nightbird won the nursery. Hills reported to the normally unshockable swell of the press corps that a certain part of his anatomy would turn into a kipper if My Branch did not collect this afternoon's Sceptre Stakes.

ST LEGER (Doncaster, Saturday): Corat: 3-1 Oushyantux, 4-1 Mons, 6-1 Gord: & Sharaf Kabeer, 8-1 Shantou, 10-1 Heron Island: & Mawes; Ladbrokes: 100-30 Dushyantux, 9-2 Mons, 5-1 Gord:, 7-1 Sharaf Kebeer; William Hill: 3-1 Dushyantox, 7-2 Mons, 5-1 Gord:, 7-1 Sharaf Kebeer, 8-1 Heron Island: & Shantou, 10-1 St Mawes.

Celeric to pull back Trigger

GREG WOOD

Injustice, as anyone who has lost a winner in the stewards' room will know, is tightly threaded into racing's fabric, and an unusually fine example may start to unfold at Doncaster today.

During the last 16 months.
Double Trigger's talent and
dogged refusal to admit defeat have brought a new vigour to our staying events, which had become dangerously dull. Yet last year, Europe's handicappers decided that Strategic Choice was 17b his superior, and after his defeat by Classic Cliche in the Gold Cup at Ascot, Mark Johnston's brave chestnut could be heading for the unwanted label of the best stayer never to be named the official champion of the division.

Nor is Classic Cliche his only rival for the title. Celeric, Double Trigger's principal opponent as he attempts to repeat last year's victory in the Doncaster Cup, has improved with every race this season and is now, according to the British Horseracing Board's handicapper, just 81b inferior. Since Double Trigger must concede 7lb to Celeric today, victory for the latter would imply that his progress has continued, and could carry

him to the head of the ratings. Double Trigger has not raced since losing both a shoe and his aura of invincibility in the Gold Cup. "It took us two months to get a steel shoe back on his foot after Ascot." Deirdre John-ston, his trainer's wife, said yesterday. "We will never know

3.50 SCANIA 1996 TRUCK OF THE YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 7f

3-F020 MILOS (7) (0) T | Naugran 5 10 0 T | Spreins 18 004506 DAMALIS (7) (0) D Heydra lones 6 9 13 S Whithwards 6 020230 DURE VALENTINO (24) (0) R Holinshead 4 9 12

D Garlitons (5) 20

546000 SUMMERHALL SPECIAL (7) Mrs N Duffeld 5 9 11.

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000501. SPEEDY CLASSIC (J.A) (O) D) M Heston-Elis 7 9 8 A Clark 15 234420 FOUR OF SPADES (J.A) (D) R Hotigs: 5 9 5 Avantal Sanders (D) 1 V

Amenda Sanders (S) 1 V
12 (50010 SOAKON (42) (20) P Burgone 6 9 6 ... D R Hickabe 3
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1A 0-800 CLASSIC LOOK (81) D Chappel 3 9 5 ... 6 Center 8
15 56-000 SOCIETY MARIE (88) I Beiding 3 9 4 ... Albertin Dayor (5) 19
16 025340 ASTRAL BWADER (21) M Sanders 4 9 4 ... 0 Unition 12
17 056F00 DEERLY (87) C Smith 3 9 3 B Doyle 5 B
19 005000 ROWYOW (45) M Lehre 8 9 2 B Doyle 5 B
19 005000 ROWYOW (45) M Lehre 8 9 2 R Smeet 17
20 805465 DESERI CALM (21) (6) Mac N Duthelt 7 9 0 ... R Haulin (3) 16 B

20 SCHOOL MARKET STATE AND ADDRESS OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL STATE OF T

whether or not losing his shoe was to blame for Trigger not setting a strong enough gallop, but he is very well in himself now."

The only certainty today is that Lanfranco Dettori, who takes over from the suspended Jason Weaver, will set a much better pace that the one which allowed Classic Cliche to conserve his speed for the finish at Ascot. A distinguished but arduous career may now be taking its toll, however, and

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Lough Eme (Doncaster 4.40) NB: Mrs Miniver (Doncaster 3.10)

CELERIC (nap 3.40) should have his measure.

Celeric rates as the day's best bet simply because the remainder of the televised card though it does not include a single handicap - is desperately dif-ficult to solve. High Summer, for instance, should follow up her imperious victory at Salisbury last week in the Sceptre Stakes. but Roger Charlton, warned punters after that race that her breathing is far from perfect, and she is thus difficult to op-

pose or support.
The May Hill Stakes is another event to treat with caution, since the step up to a mile could bring dramatic improve-ment from fillies who are still at the learning stage. Gretel (3.10) should at least start at a fair price, while Bishop Of Cashel (next best 2.35) is the one for the Park Stakes.

RESULTS

DONCASTER

1.30: 1. BENNY THE DPP (I. Dettor) 7-4:
2. Desert Story 4: 1; 3. Furnish 11: 2. 5 mm.
13-8 fav Out West (4th). 1½, 1½. U Gosden. Newmarket). Toke: £2.70; £1.40,
£2.00. DF: £5.50. CSF: £8.75.
2.00: 1. CORRADING (K-Fallon) evens fax;
2. Candle Smile 15-2; 3. Tudor Island 1018 mm. 1, 5. (H. Ceci., Newmarket). Toke:
£1.90: £1.30, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £5.30. CSF:
£9.30. Theast: £47.29. Tho: £10.80. NRS:
Casual Water, Sherraf.
2.35: 1. NIGHTERRO (M. Hills:) 12-1; 2.
Naled Poser 16-1: 3. One-lonight With You25-1: 4. Hallowing 33-1. 22 ms. 4-1 fav Cauechism. Stit. Id., 74, 90. £6.40, £14.10. DF:
£99.20. CSF: £1.96.06. Theast: £4,395.92.
Into Not worn. DONCASTER

2.10. Not won.

3.10: 1. EVA LUNA (Pat Eddery) 2-1 fav;
3.10: 1. EVA LUNA (Pat Eddery) 2-1 fav;
2. Time Allowed 7-2; 3. Beauchimmp hade
7-2. 6 zan. 1½, 5. M(Caci), Neumaniest). Tota:
2.40: 1. ELO, 22.20, DF: £4.20, CSP: £8.94.
3.40: 1. ANZIO (R Coctrane) 14-1; 2.
Amazing Bay 14-1; 3. Brave Edge B-1. 9
ran. 13-8 by thue his (4th). Hd, sht-hd, (Mass
Gay Kelleway, Whitcombe). Totae: £13.20:
2.50, £4.30, £2.60, DF: £57.70, CSP:
£168.12. Tho: £337.80.
4.10: 1. MUSTRAL SEASON (R Darley) 331; 2. Sylva Paradisae 16-1; 3. Lago Di Varano 10-1: 4. Tedburrow 14-1, £21 ran. 4-1
fav Cyrano's Lad. 1½, sht-hd. (T D Barron.
Thisk). Totae: £38.10; £8.60, £5.20, £2.30,
£4.00, DF: £751.80, CSP: £463.82. Titoas:
£5, 10/2.22. This: £2,£29.80, NR: Cross The
Border.

Border 4.40: 1. OOPS PETTE IW R Swinburn) 11-2; 2. Trojan Risk 4-1 far; 3. Inframous 16-11 ran, 3%, 1%, (Mrs) Cecil, Newmarket). Tota: 56.50: £2.00, £1.80, £3.90, Dr. £9.70, CSP: £27.30. Tro; £58.30. After a stewards CSF: £27.30. The 250 cm country placings unalized. Jackgott Not won. Pool of £30,726,17 carned forward to Doncaster today. Placepott £2,722.00. Quadpott £716.50. Place 6: £1,627.70. Place 5: £933,62

EPSOM 2.10: 1. SHP-TAKE IS Sanders) 4-6 fav; 2. Supply And Dermand 12-1; 3. Another Night 11-2. 9 nm. 3, 4. (R Alexanst, Epsom). Tokes £1.60; £1.10, £1.10, £1.30. DF; £6.40. CSF: £9.98. Tro: £10.70. 2.45: 1. TUSCAN DAWN (P Roberts) 12-1; 2. Tart And A Half 7-1; 3. Porthelet 9-4 tav. 8 ran. 4; hd. U Berry, Cockerham), Tokes £14.10: £2.80, £1.40, £1.60, DF: £22.10. CSF: £17.38. Tricost: £199.55. Tric: £25.30. NR: Invocation.

1.10: ## 2.20, ## 2.20. Pr.: ## 2.210.

CSF: ## 2738. Tiross: £199.55. Tiro: ## 225.30.

Nr. Impocation.

3.20: 1. NINBA (R Hills) 5-1 fav. 2. Claim

Ben 11-2. 3. Double Bluff 7-1. 11 run. 8,

Int. (M Johnston, Middelman). Tote: £4.20:

2.20. £2.10. £2.60. Dr. £10.30. CSF:

2.20. E2.10. £2.60. Dr. £10.30. CSF:

2.20. E2.10. £2.60. Dr. £10.30. CSF:

2.20. 1. Li run. 4-1 fav Proton. 3/r. 1/r.

1.20. 1. Schrift Degree 13-2; 3. Straff's Laga
try 20-1. 13 run. 4-1 fav Proton. 3/r. 1/r.

1.20. E2.10. Dr. £4.40. Dr. £13.20. CSF:

22.11. Tiroset: £488.18. Tiro: £2.30.

2.20. 1. SELHURSTPARK FLYER (P

Roberts) 11-1: 2. Mart 7-2 fl.4av; 3. Green

Perflume 7-2 ir.fav, 9 run. 2/r. in. U Berry.

Cookenham). Tota: £7.90: £1.70. £1.10.

2.10. NR: Espartaro.

4.50: 1. CRYMAVOC (P Harmson) 10-1: 2.

Test The Waster 9-2; 3. Nopusies 3-1 fav.

15 run. 1. /r. U Arnold, Upper Larmboumi.

Tota: £20.30: £4.20. £1.40. £1.80. Dr.

2.20: 1. SUPAMMOVA (T Quant) 9-2; 2.

Said No. 520: 1. SUPAMOVA (7 Qurn) 9-2; 2. Locky Archer 7-1; 3. Axford 2-1 (av. 9 ran. ½, 1½, (P Cole, Whatcombe). Total £4.00; £1.80. £2.60. £1.40. DF: £11.70. CSF. £31.17. Tho: £17.20. NR: Hartraite. Placegot £8.20. Quadpot: £5.50. Place 6: £19.35. Place 6: £15.38 EXETER

Piace 6: £19.35. Piace & £15.38

EXETER

2.20: 1. KRILING TIME: (0) Burchesh 1212. Rare Spread 1.2 Sar. 3. Mario's Dream
100-1.7 san. 29. 5. 0. Burchesh, Yolar £12.10,
£3.20, £1.20, £5.59.0. CSF: £18.61.
2.55: 1. NORDINC WALLEY (0 Bridgerish 31; 2. Bishops: Casatie 100-30: 3. Dubeshe 118 tw. 6 ran. 7. sin-th; (A Ppel. Toke: £3.40;
£1.90, £1.30. DF: £4.00 CSF: £12.11.
3.80: 1. OUT RANNING 10 Bridgerish 31. 7 ran. 15.8 faw Marchman (Ath). 2, 5. (Ar. 190). Lote: £4.70; £1.90. £2.90. DF: £1.10.
4.00: 1. Bish VALENTINE (A Maschin 7-1;
2. Dramcolier 6-1: 3. Boxing March 15-2. 10
ran. 3.1 taw March Res. 6. 8. (0 Winter, Toke: £0.70; £1.90, £2.90. DF: £1.40. CSF: £17.00.
4.00: 1. Bish VALENTINE (A Maschin 7-1;
2. Dramcolier 6-1: 3. Boxing March 15-2. 10
ran. 3.1 taw March Res. 6. 8. (0 Winter, Toke: £0.70; £1.30, £1.30, £2.70, £2.£0. OF: £3.80, CSF.
£5.8.1. Tricast: £29.9.1. Tro: £1.40, 70;
£1.30, £1.30, DF: £2.40. CSF: £3.63, £0.01; £1.30, £1.30, DF: £2.40. CSF: £3.63, £0.01; £1.30, £1.30, DF: £2.40. CSF: £3.63, £0.01; £1.30, £1.30, DF: £2.40. CSF: £3.63, £0.01; £1.30, £1.30, DF: £2.40. CSF : £3.63, £0.01; £0.01; £0.00; £0.



DONCASTER

200 AL AZHAR (nap)

35 Distant Oasis 3.10 Bint Baladee

GOING: Straight course - Good; Round course - Good (Good to Firm in pures).

STALLS: Straight course - Stands side; Round course - Inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand, pear-shaped course with one mile straight.

Encecourse is east of town off the AGSS (M18 Jets 3 & 4). Bus link from Dourseur Barcecourse is east of town off the AGSS (M18 Jets 3 & 4). Bus link from Dourseur Pentral railway station (served by London, King's Cross). ADMISSION: Cub 522; Grand-Fentral railway station (served by London, King's Cross). ADMISSION: Cub 522; Grand-Fentral railway station (served by London, King's Cross). ADMISSION: Cub 522; Grand-Fentral railway station (served by London, King's Cross).

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: B Hills — 36 winners from 137 runners gives a sucress ratio of 19.9% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$37.03; R Cecil — 23 gives a sucress ratio of 19.9% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$37.03; R Cecil — 23 gives a sucress, 90 runners, 25.6%, +\$8.98; P. Hannson — 23 winners, 243 runners, 26%, -\$1.55.03; M Stoute — 20 winners, 97 runners, 20.6%, +\$5.81.

LEADING JOCKETS: Pat Eddery — 34 winners, 193 rides, 17.0%, +\$16.93; K Darley — 32 winners, 236 rides, 13.6%, \$1.72; W Carson — 39 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, 16y — 32 winners, 236 rides, 13.6%, \$1.77; rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 28 winners, 177 rides, 15.8%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 13.9%, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 209, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 209, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 209, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208 rides, 209, \$7.81; S6.31; L Dettori — 29 winners, 208

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	<b>3:17</b>	COL	PICTIFICATION (27) (All D. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L.

an weight: 7st 10lb. True handicep weight: Sendbeggedi NATIONAL WORKS, AND AND AN ACTION, 7-1 General's Star, 10-1 Sad Mad Bad, South BETUND: 2-1 The Fty, 11-2 Al Arther, 7-1 General's Star, 10-1 Sad Mad Bad, South BETUND: 2-1 The Fty, 11-2 Al Arther, 7-1 General's Star, 10-1 Sad Mad Bad, South BETUND: 19-1 Star, 10-1 Sad Mad Bad, South 11-2 (6) Level) 17-10 CONTROL OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE STAR AND ACTION OF THE FORM GUEDE

FORM GUIDE

THE FLY came from last to first to win Europe's most valuable two-year-old handcap at Newcastle 17 days ago. He won by three lengths, but it could have been six. The Fly has Newcastle 17 days ago. He won by three lengths, but it could have been six. The Fly has been raised 6th since Newcastle, but could be a Group horse in the marking. He made his debut in the good Newmarket malden won by Bahbare in July and then won over sent furbounds at Ayr a month tears, impressing meny good judges despite the extra-head margin longs at Ayr a month tears, impressing meny good judges despite the extra the flower Group and to The State of the four Eyes Only hash quite marched up to the Group over Contain William. Topwelght For Your Eyes Only hash quite marched up to the Group over Contain William. Topwelght For Your Eyes Only hash quite statemans Souther-pound to The Fly. More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly. More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly. More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly. More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly. More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly. More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to The Fly More Biely to threaten are Exit To Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to Roo's improving statemans Souther-pound to Roo's

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- 1		POSTAIN'S FASIES: NAME AND AND (ROLEND COLUMN)	
ı	19 2Ki	A) (Group 3) £30,000 added 1m (Routiu Coman) SN ROSE (27) (D) (Wais Said D Loter 4.9 4. SN ROSE (27) (D) (Wais Said D Loter 4.9 4. SN ROSE (27) (D) (Wais Said D Loter 4.9 4. SN ROSE (27) (D) (Wais Said D Loter 4.9 4.	a Profession & B
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	4 0.43211	A) (Group 3) 2-30-year Said D Loder 4.9.4.  EN ROSE (27) (D) (Mais Said D Loder 4.9.4.  ESHOP OF CASHEL (1.9) (CD) (Chaseley Park Stud) J Fansiense 4.9.4W  ESTRUCTURE (1.9) (D) (Main Myers) Mrs. J Caci 4.9.4.  RESTRUCTURE (1.9) (D) (Grean Yeardley Continuerial Ltd) M Johnston 3.9.1	Reid 8
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BETTURE: 3-1 Distant Onsis, 7-2 Bishop Of Cashel, 4-1 Bis Rosie, 9-2 Restructure, 6-1 Res.

14-1 Royal Philosopher, Nije, 16-1 Bothenberg, 1996; Bettop of Cashel 3 8-9 W R Swinburn 9-2 U Farstown) 8 ran 31.4411 RIZNAMA (USA) (21) (CD) (Hamdan Al Ma

14-1 Bingal Philosophier, Nijo. 16-1 Bothenberg.
14-1 Bingal Philosophier, Nijo. 16-1 Bothenberg.
1958: Being of Cashel 3 8 9 W R Swinburn 9-2 U Fareheave) 3 ran
1958: Being of Cashel 3 8 9 W R Swinburn 9-2 U Fareheave) 3 ran
1958: Being of Cashel 3 8 9 W R Swinburn 9-2 U Fareheave) 3 ran
1958: Being of Cashel 3 8 9 W R Swinburn 9-2 U Fareheave) 3 ran
1958: Being of Cashel 3 Respective Properties of Swing prompting him to start.
1958: Being of Theory of Cashel Herry Cash in norme gallops in the spiring prompting him to start her off in a 8-grade conditions event against previous winners at Associ on 1 Nay. She gave her off in a 8-grade conditions event against previous winners at Associ on 1 Nay. She gave her off in a 8-grade conditions event against previous winners and she in the starting-price of 5-2 indicates that pursers had starting-price of 5-2 indicates that pursers had considering her independence, atmosphile astrong-price of 5-2 indicates that pursers had considering horn lesiend and probably just need her latest race following a three-month abunding from lesiend and probably just need her latest race following a three-month abunding from lesiend and probably just need her latest race following a three-month abunding from lesiend and probably better in with both Bishop Of Cashel (won this race last sense) and Restructure, who were respectively second and fourth at Goodwood, Bishop Of Cashel would probably prefer a shade more cut underfoot and the one to best could be forest in the Queen Anné Stales at Royal association at the one to best could be forest in the Queen Anné Stales at Royal Association at a three and a half lengths fine of the probably prefer as the season of the Restructure at the hort forest in the Queen Anné Stales at Royal Association at a three and a her gather than ne showed last time. He was a tour-length scool to Cherching the start than the Susses Sales at Royal Philosopher often front-unit and are watherable to a store termil, while Gothersburg, and Royal Philosopher often front

and are winerable to a strong mester.	COS 000 [-04-
3.10 MAY HELL STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) added 270 filles 1m (Round course)	223,000
2 10 MAY HELL STATES 1m (Round course)	RATINGS
added 210 lates	M Has 9 102
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1 61 COTHALK (33) (Michael H Bruster) v roses 1 2 ATTRIBE (FR) (51) (R A Periger) C. Britain 8 9	TO-4m 2 103
	W R Suinburn 10 96 O Pesilar 7 105
2 21220 Dame Land (18) Spitest Al Robert 1 10022 FERNANDA (18) Spitest Al Robert M Strutte 8 9 1 16 SPECIAL (49) Spitest Materians M Strutte 8 9 1 16 SPECIAL (49) Spitest ACO (L. M.A. Huttey) P Releasey 8 9 1	K Dadey & 94
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#### for a late run. Double Trigger is a worthy favourite but it might not pay to take short odds on a horse who good enough to win this prize for Michael Stoute. damaged a hoof last time.

4213 RAUNDANICING (47) N Hayes R Hannon 8 9
21. REAMS OF VEISE (USA) (20) (K Andulati H Cool 8 9
1. THE IN-LAIRS (22) (G D Wessel ST Mark Prescut 8 9
3413 VASABOND CHANTELISE (17) (W R Green T Etheoryson 8 9
22 declared 12 declared -12 declared -12 declared -12 declared -12 declared -12 declared -12 declared -13 declared -14 declared -14 declared -15 declared -15 declared -16 declared -16 declared -16 declared -17 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 declared -18 dec

PERION
3.40 Lear White
4.10 Dance Sequence (nb)
4.40 Champagne Grandy

It is difficult to know what to make of Gretal, a good winner on her Sandown debut over the other of the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series the other and the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series the other and the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series the other and the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series the other and the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series the other and the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown debut over the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown of the green series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown debut over the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown debut over the series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series before a comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series between the comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series between the comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown when she series between the comprehensive defeat behind Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comelle at Sandown Red Comell pulled much too hard and was strugging two furings out. Even if she setties better he she will do well to outgin BRNT BALADEE assuming she has shaken most of the greening out of her system after her Newmarket debut effort 20 days ago when she and the winn Resents Of Verse, pulled 1A lengths clear. Reams Of Verse, by Nurreyer out of a Rober mare, looks well up to Group Three company and there's no guarantee she will give way Bird Baladee in this remarch, but the Goodphin Sily (Neshwan-Sahara Baladee) would probby have won if she hardn't shop loft, notify and left again to the float furious. Bird Baildee in this remerch, but the Godolphin Sily (Neshwan-Sehara Baildee) would probBird Baildee in this remerch, but the Godolphin Sily (Neshwan-Sehara Baildee) would probably have won if she hadn't gone left, right and left again in the final furlong. Quintollina
ably have won if she hadn't gone left, right and left again in the Godolwood when she
followed a debut third to Imruz at Headquarters with a readen win at Godolwood when she
idd the job well after having to wast a long time for a gop to materialise. She should like the
top given that the dam was placed over a mile and is a sister to a good 14-furlong horse.
The given that the dam was placed over a mile and is a sister to a good 14-furlong horse.
Cabinatic could be a big tivest after her girtsy listed win from Fernanda over the Newmarket
Cabinatic could be a big tivest after her girtsy listed win from Fernanda could be the one
Seven last month. Fernanda is weighted to reverse the form,

Sefaction: BINT BALADEE

with most improvement in her.	<b></b>	
3.40 EAST COAST DONCASTER CUP (Group 3) £30,000 added 2m 2f	(CLASS A	) C4
(Group 3) £30,000 auded 211 21		PATINGS
	ntersone 597	L Deltor 5 119
1 140-112 DOUBLE TRISGER (84) (CD) (8F) (R W Huggins) M J 2 1-24205 ASSESSOR (25) (CD) (Suban M Haben) R Hannon 7	03	Raid 4 105
2 1-24205 ASSESSOR (25) (CD) (Suban Al Reben) R Hamon 6 3 145-410 ADMRAL'S WELL (42) (A D Spence) R Alethus 6 9	*	T Duke 1.112
A PROPERTY WELL (42) (A D Sporte) R Alchest 6 9	U,	2 115
3 145-410 ADMINISTED THE Country Country D Moriey 490		
3 145-410 ADMIRAL'S WELL (42) (A D Spence) R Assures 6 9 4 012111 CELERIC (23) (Chastopher Spence) D Mortey 4 9 0.	P Kaleury 5 9 0.	O Pages 3 22:
4 012111 CELERIC (23) (Cristopher Spence) D Montey 4 9 U. 5 344423 LEAR WHITE (USA) (25) (General House Advantains) 1 D Mar	Smith 5 9 0	K Darley 6 100

6 3-25436 OLD ROUNEL (USA) (15) (C) (Mrs R D C) - 6 declared - BETTHIC evens Double Trigger, 7-4 Celeric, 7-2 Lear White, 10-1 Assessor, 14-1 Admire's Well

BETTINIC: evens Desble Trigger, 7.4 Celertic, 7-2 User Vental, 32.1. Old Rousel
1995: Double Trigger 4.9.7.) Wester 4-11 (M Johnston) 6 sea
1995: Double Trigger 4.9.7.) Wester 4-11 (M Johnston) 6 sea
1996: Rousel and Admiral's Well shouldn't be good enough, while Assessor is a different
horse in the mud but seems uniticely to get his favoured conditions here. So the three to
concentrate on are CELERGIC, Double Trigger and Lear White. Since this trip presents a
concentrate on are CELERGIC, Double Trigger and Lear White. Since this trip presents a
consentrate on are CELERGIC, despecially against a high-class performer like Double Trigger, he
new challenge for Celeric, especially against a high-class performer like Double Trigger, he
has work cut out to win. But he has done nothing but improve and has a good turn of
has his work cut out to win. But he has done nothing but improve and has a good turn of
hear first plate, he sustained his run for a long way when hitting top gear and so he might
herized Plate, he sustained his run for a long way when hitting top gear and so he might
here the reserves of stamina which will enable him to be competitive in top company at
here the reserves of stamina which will enable him to be competitive in top company at
here the reserves of stamina which will enable him to be competitive in top company at
him distance. Double Trigger apparently damaged a noof in bowing under to Classic Clash
the distance. Double Trigger apparently damaged a noof in bowing under to Classic Clash
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the distance. Double Trigger paperntly damaged a noof in bowing under to Classic Clash
the distance and the double Trigger apparently damaged a noof in bowing under to Classic Space and ride accordingly. Las
the damaged of the double Trigger apparently d

4.10	KYOTO SCEPTRE STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed Race) E17,000 added Fillies 7f	C4
1 13-4523 2 4-60622	POREST CAT (22) (3) (SER) (SER) (Cheedey Park, Stud) M Stoute 3 8 6	,0 Pesser 8 Pat Eddery 7 M 168s 2
4 23-4300 5 1-5	POLSKA (USA) (28) (Sheith Motermed) D Loter 3 8 6	_i_Detted 1 _T Quien 6 B D-Handson 4
7 6-10	THEA (USA) (12) (1) (1 a.) (GEN)	elea. 9-1 For

BETTING: 5-2 bity Stanch, 4-1 Dance Sequence, 5-1 Tarmin, 7-1 High Summer, 8-1 Polatica, 9-1 Forest Cat, 10-1 Then
1995: Branston Abby 6 8 13 M Robers 3-1 [M Johnston) 12 ran
1995: Branston Abby 6 8 13 M Robers 3-1 [M Johnston) 12 ran
1995: Branston Abby 6 8 13 M Robers 3-1 [M Johnston) 12 ran
1995: Branston Abby 6 8 13 M Robers 3-1 [M Johnston) 12 ran
1995: Branston Abby 6 8 13 M Robers 3-1 [M Johnston) 12 ran
1995: Branston April form worked out substitution. In median company at least, when in
1997 with a strict at sporting than her ninth placing indicates. Bity Branch made the
1998 ago (first run since at the Southees before a below-form effort in the Jersey States
1997 from 1997 than the English and test Gustness before a below-form effort in the Jersey States
1997 form 1997 than 1997 than her leasts than starts and is interesting with the binkers
1997 form 1997. Tarmins has run well on her leasts than starts and is interesting with the binkers
1997 form 1997 her branches has run well on her leasts than starts and is interesting with the binkers
1998 for larger than 1997 for a per with Portest Cat and Denoe Sequence (the lattier's Becaring
1998 for larger larger time and could be a very decent tilly if size can overcome problems
1998 to larger larger at Goodwood last month and also at Selection: THEA
1998 with larger. Strap.

4.40 DONCASTER FREE PRESS LADIES DAY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,650 added 7f

	1-	–	C) £ (7050 autor 1	N 1894 (
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Nurdern, 14-1 Attenuents, Chickenfelot, 16-1 Class tang-Nart, 20-1 Northern Fan, Royal Mark, Wid Kien, 28-1 others 1985: Nrobbleenecte 5 9 0 R Hughes 16-1 (M Channon) 19 st 1985: Nrobbleenecte 5 9 0 R Hughes 16-1 (M Channon)

Ret. 20-1. Northern Ran., looks allows 16-1 (M Channon) 19 am 1985; Knobblesnesse 5 9 0 R Hughes 16-1 (M Channon) 19 am FORM GUIDE.

Lough Erne won in great style at Nortingham (6f) last time and the big question main is the some furiong. The Nortingham form hasn't been working out too wall, but Chris Wall's the some furion. The Nortingham form hasn't been working out too wall, but Chris Wall's fly is buzzing and walle Carson has been booked. Sall, the fact that so furion's might be fly is buzzing and walle Carson has been booked. Sall, the fact that so furion's might be her best until the daw, but shaping well, on her latest starts at Pomedicat and Chester. being shookered by the draw, but shaping well, on her latest starts at Pomedicat Lingdid hendicap She sommed clear under apprentice permits when whitning a 0-95 grade Lingdid hendicap over this trip in April and she is the lower here. Consort is a much more unsposed horse over this trip in April and she is the lower here. Consort is a much more unsposed horse over this trip in April and she is the lower here. Consort is a much more unsposed horse over this trip in April and she is the lower here. Consort is a much more unsposed horse over this trip in April and she is the lower here. Consort is a much more unsposed horse over this trip in April and she to the she that the locked return the locked that the locked return the locked return the locked returns the locked return the locked returns the locked returns the locked return the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the locked returns the loc

### BETTING: 4-1 Colorbasser, 6-1 Helios, 7-1 Cape Pigeon, 3-1 CD Soper Ter-3.20 SCANIA 4-SERIES THORSEPOWER MAID EN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 2YO 7f 4.50 SCANIA 4-SERIES 'KING OF THE ROAD' HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 5f SODA POP (77) C Britain 9 C RON ROSE (17) M B NEWTON ABBOT 2.20 Hacketts Cross 2.55 Stapleford Lady 3.30 Lucky Dollar 4.00 Second Colours 4.30 Maggots Green 5.00 Glengarrif Girl

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Left-hand, sharp, course with short run-in.

Course is N of town on ASBO. Newton Abbot station 1m. AD-MISSION: Taiters SIS 55.50; Course 54. Accompanied under-lies free. CAR PARK: On rails \$1.50, remainder free. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sharp Helly (visured) (2.30); Land-

ford on Samulay.  LONG-DESTANCE EURINEES: Cats Eun (2.30) has been sent 184  miles by J Upson from Adstone, Northenis.	
2 20 COCA-COLA SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G)	1
2 EPS231 HACKETTS CROSS (7) P Eccles 8 11 12	l
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BETTING 84 Hacketts Gruss, 5-1 Augus Harrier, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Orinous Venture, 14-1 others But Wisk, 18-1 Inva States, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See, Day See	

ord (4,00). VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYE: Hacketts Cross (2,20) VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYE: Hacketts (4,30) won at Strat-

2.33 CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600

Minimum weight: 10st. True weights: Autoum Str 13th, Prudent Regign Str Str. BETTING: 9-4 Willia Malacit, 7-2 Toursech Tourson, 4-1 Super Shane, 8-1 1 Sephanik Retrievor, 7-1 Shapleford Lady, 8-1 Feorrick, 14-1 others

BETTBIG: 4-1 Imposing Hone, 5-1 remain new, 12-1 Colston-C, 16-1 others 8-1 Marino Street, 10-1 Ashkermany, 12-1 Colston-C, 16-1 others		
3.30 DRY BLACKTHORN NOVICE CHAS (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f 110y 1 21P-321 CNTS REM (3S) J Upon 8 11.5 R John 2 USF541 LUCKY DOLLAR (15) K Bally 8 11.5 A Thom 3 BELLS WOOD A Dum 7 10 12 C Mar 4 F40-654 MARESWICK (17) J Duloses 6 10 12 P No 5 50-3522 BLUE RAWER (18) P Nobits 5 10 9 A P No BETTONS: 64 Lucky Dollar, 7-4 Cata Rop., 7-2 Blue Royce, 1	do od Oc	
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# sport Wilkinson once took the Leeds players underground to observe life in the mines to bring an appreciation of obvious advantages

here too long to be lightly dismissed is that managers who put their trust in footballers are asking for trouble. "Play all the angles before they start playing you," is how Brian Clough once put it.

What helped to make Clough a great figure in his time was the understanding that liberty-taking comes naturally to the breed, along with a nose for excuses - the coaching, the tactics, the pitch, team selection, even what is served

up for breakfast. Delayed when returning from abroad, an England player's eyes lit up at the suggestion that it was no way to get ready for a match against Liverpool at Anfield. Try working on a coal face," Clough would probably have growled.

As I recall it, Howard Wilkinson themselves in any way responsible once took the Leeds players then for Wilkinson's dismissal. under his charge to observe life underground in the coal mines in the hope that it would bring about a greater appreciation of pretty

obvious advantages.

Probably, this did not have the desired effect because, from personal experience, footballers, in the main, take their good fortune for granted.

All these things sprang to mind this week when it was announced that Wilkinson's eight-year reign at Elland Road was over. On the evidence of their dismal performance in last season's Coca-Cola Cup final against Aston Villa and subsequent displays in the Premiership, a fairly safe bet is that few if any of the Leeds players considered

Thinking back to a conversation I had with Wilkinson shortly after the Wembley disappointment, he may have sensed by then that it was time to think seriously about alternative employment.

It was not simply that football supporters are naturally unforgiv-ing and that directors run out of patience, but that the team had stopped performing for him.
"Daft as it might sound, it got to the point at Wembley where I

themselves, anything to show that they were actually interested," I recall him saying.

When those thoughts figured in an interview on these pages, they



KEN JONES

caused quite a stir and, apparently, led to recriminations in the Leeds wished that one of them would hit the referee, start fighting among

dressing room.

However you look at these things, the manager, of course, is ultimately responsible. Eight years, even five, is a long time to be hear-

case it had reached the point where either he got himself a new team or the team would get itself a new manager. That Wilkinson was unfailingly honest and is in touch with wider realities did not

come into the equation.
Ironically, Wilkinson's replacement, George Graham, had begun to experience something similar at
Arsenal before he was called to
account in a "bung" inquiry, sacked
and then suspended from football for 12 months. The methods Graham had employed to win five major trophies in eight years, including two championships, were beginning to creak along with the legs of ageing players. An unavoidable impression was that Arsenal found Graham's indiscretions convenient.

not made it unpopular with the masses. It is not that long ago since many Manchester United sup-porters would have gladly seen the back of Alex Ferguson, who has since established himself as one of the truly great club managers, in the mould of Clough, Jock Stein, Sir Matt Busby, Bill Shankly, Bill Nicholson and Don Revie. Likewise, Everton supporters were howling for Howard Kendall's

head before he went on to win the championship. It has to be said that Wilkinson made mistakes, especially when signing players who never came up to expectations. There was a lot of tinkering with the system and, over the last couple of seasons, too

Still, slapping managers around many team changes. Winning the with consummate disrespect has championship just two seasons after Leeds returned to the top flight probably worked against Wilkinson in that it brought about hud

Saux

strike

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an untimely upsurge of expectation.
Shortly before that success was achieved, I came across Wilkinson at the Cheltenham Spring Festival. He was with two Leeds directors, one of whom said: "You are speaking to the best manager in the business." Wilkinson had already raised Leeds from the ruins of the post-

This week the curtain came Revie era. down for him at Elland Road just five matches into the season. Nothing new in this, but it is getting more and more difficult to be light-hearted about a game for

Faldo on

a tight

schedule

Nick Faldo, making a rare Euror ean appearance here in the Lancone Trophy, will give himself only eight opportunities

to make next year's Ryder Cup team. Faldo, who swung last

year's match Europe's way, has

yet to communicate this to Seve

Ballesteros. The new captain

warned the top players not to

After this week and next at

Loch Lomond, plus next year's

majors, Faldo's two other events

may be prior to the Open. His

schedule does not include the PGA Championship at Wentworth. "It is opposite the

Memorial event and in the

middle of a good run for me in

America leading up to the US Open," the Masters champion

said. "If I am playing well, then

Ill qualify from eight events. My

priority is the majors. I fully

understand Seve's concern. If you

only have two picks, you want the

As expected, Faldo's name is

Championship at Wentworth next month. He was already

committed to the Bridgestone

Open-in-Japan prior-to winning

at Augusta. Without him, the

line-up includes the three other

majors winners, the top five on

the US money list and the top

two in Europe. The defending

champion, Ernie Els, is seeded

into the second round with

Tom Lehman, Steve Jones and

Mark Brooks, while Colin

Montgomerie and Ian Woos-

nam fight it out from day one.

also missing from the 12-man field for the Toyota World Match

best players to qualify."

rely on a wild card.

ANDREW FARRELL reports from Versailles

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Leicestershire are two wins away from their first title for 21 years. Jon Culley reports

# Whitaker enjoying the mind games

The question was designed to be provocative and it had the desired effect on the Leicestershire captain. Must it not be a poor Championship if his

"I don't think it is a fair comment," James Whitaker said, "but I can see why people might

"They look at the players we have and they don't see big names, so they wonder how we can be doing so well. But what they do not see is a team. "I don't think any of the

other counties would begrudge us the title. All the counties we have beaten we have beaten handsomely, including sides with five or six internationals, and, of the six draws, three were dictated by the weather.

"We have used only 13 players and everyone has won us a game, in one way or another. Alan Mullally's talent has been recognised at last and there are not many batsmen who look forward to taking on David Millus, even at 30. And the contribution of Phil Simmons, as a bowler, batsman and slip fielder, has been immeasurable."

Simmons, the West Indian all-rounder, signed a new two year-contract yesterday amid high optimism at Grace Road. and Leicestershire, with a lead of one point as they begin the penultimate round against Durham at Chester-le-Street today, will carry off the title for the first time since Ray Illingworth led them to it in 1975. It may be an omen that the

present captain is another Yorkshireman, as is the manager, Jack Birkenshaw, who was a member of Illingworth's side. But the notion that this is a success driven by a couple of hard-nosed northerners would also be

less than accurate. Birkenshaw's roots are unmistakable but the harsher edges of Whitaker's vowels have long since been smoothed

To see people performing above their own expectations makes me very proud'

away. His family, chocolate makers from Skipton, sent James to Uppingham School in

Nor is there much of the blunt intransigence of the regional stereotype. In conversation, Whitaker constructs his comments thoughtfully, revealing sensitivity and perceptiveness, particularly so in chology of the game, which has been a key element in his first season as captain.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm not a Mike Brearley," he said. "But I have always been interested in how to focus the mind in cerEnglish cricket. Sport is 90 per cent in the brain, isn't it? And 10 per cent technique. So what do we do with English cricketers? We spend 90 per cent of the time on batting and bowling technique and we never - or hardly ever - practise what goes through our minds. Surely you must practise that as well?"

At Whitaker's instigation, Leicestershire have, Mental preparation has become as im-

portant as catching practice.
"As an example," he said, "we now go to an away ground the afternoon before the match, have a couple of hours practice, unpack and get ready for the event taking place the follow-

ing day.
"In the past, though we might travel the day before, we would not be together in an organised way until the morning.

"And we have a team meeting on the Wednesday night. We have talked games through every time and it has helped create a sense of everyone being involved. If they feel more part of it, that they are contributing, then it helps their performance,

This togetherness is evident on the field, where Leicestershire celebrate each wicket by forming a huddle, an act which has now become part of the team ethic. "It started as a bit cussing personal targets with of fun," Whitaker said, "but it each player. Bowlers are enis useful as a way of refocusing. I like to be pro-active, to be reviewing what is happening the whole time rather than letting

the game drift, and this helps



they are trying to do."

Alongside this collectivism, Whitaker has also preached individual responsibility, discouraged to think for themselves in setting fields, batters to balance their own interests with those of the team. "I be-

of getting 10, 15 even 25 per could get 10 or 15 per cent more out of themselves, out of the batsmen we could be "But these things do not given the right climate and di-

"This is what we have tried to do and, although there were a few raised evebrows at the start. I think the players have re-sponded positively. I was al-ways confident that, given a fair lieve that almost anybody play- break with injuries, we could

Darren Maddy, Ben Smith and Vince Wells were capable players. It was just a matter of con-

vincing them they could express themselves in a confident way." In no one has this been more startling than Wells, the former jack of all trades who has three

keep everyone aware of what ing first-class cricket is capable bowl people out and that if we times made double hundreds. a force. I knew that guys like happen unless someone is prepared to put the time and effort into communication." Whitaker said. "To see people performing above their own expectations makes me proud. If we can now win two more and take the title, my first year in the job will have been perfect."

hampionship top five and omaining fixtures

P W 1. D Bat But Tot Leics (7) ___15 8 1 6 49 53 248 Sarvey (12) __15 8 1 6 45 56 247 Derbys (14) __15 8 2 5 49 50 242 Emer (5) ____15 8 3 4 50 51 242 Kent (18) ___15 8 1 6 43 44 233 all-rounder, is back to aid the Essex challenge (they play at home to Sussex, then Glamor-

Faldo and Montgomerie were among those who attended a players' meeting called by Ballesteros following the greens fiasco at Collingtree Park durhasco at Coungiree rark our-ing the British Masters. "It was a private meeting," Monty reported. How private? "Private to the extent of not saying any-thing of what hannened."

thing of what happened."

Laura Davies, second in the
European earnings list, aims to boost her chance of being the leading money-winner on both sides of the Atlantic when she defends her English Open title

# **FANTASY** FOOTBALL Check your team scores every Wednesday and Sunday PHILIPS Let's make fixings better THE INDEPENDENT SINDEPENDENT

### Mullally takes aim at his third ambition

Leicestershire side today baving already achieved two of his ambitions for the season but aware that pulling off the last may be the most difficult, writes Jon Culley.

The lanky left-arm England pace bowler was determined his ability would be recognised with a Test cap this year, followed by a place on the winter tours. The

the party for Zimbabwe and sex to view their prospects with New Zealand. However, clinch-similar optimism. Kent, though ing the third goal - the Champ-

ionship - may be trickier.

Ahead by only one point going into the penultimale round.

Leicestershire know that a maximum haul against Durham at Chester-le-Street, starting today. and then Middlesex at Grace Road next week would guarantee a first title since 1975.

15 points behind Leicestershire, remain in the hunt and even Yorkshire, while no longer holding a realistic chance, are mathematical contenders.

Mullally signed a new threeyear contract yesterday and his return, fully rested, gives Leices-tershire's captain, James Whitaker, a full hand, provided there are second wish was granted on The race is open enough still none who succumb to a flu bug Tuesday when he was named in for Surrey, Derbyshire and Es-doing the rounds at Grace Road.

gan) after helping Australia reach the Singer Cup final in Sri Lanka, but their strike bowler Neil Williams is out with a home to Durham, hope first to emulate Surrey and Essex in

Derbyshire, who finish at thrashing the outgoing champ-ions, Warwickshire, at Derby.

# Redgrave backs Olympic push

Steven Redgrave, still debating whether to extend his own Olympic career, yesterday called upon the public to support a British bid for the Games. Speaking at the launch of a four-year, for investment in

British sport by Barclaycard, the 38-year-old rower identified hosting the Olympics as the factor most likely to improve Britain's sporting standards. "An Academy of Sport would be very good, but having the Olympics would push us forward more than anything," he said.

He agreed with the British Olympic Association's policy of not bidding for the 2004 Games - "It would not give us enough time to set things up properly" - and backed the

Mike Rowbottom hears a British Olympic hero point the way forward

option of campaigning for the 2008 Games, if necessary as a prelude to a further bid for the Olympics of 2012.

"Our 10, 11 and 12-year-olds of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control

today are the ones who would be winning medals in 2012," he said. If they can be brought up in the atmosphere of a national campaign for the Games, and if there is a good support structure in place, there is no reason why we couldn't win a lot of medals." Redgrave is struggling over whether he should seek a fifth gold medal four years hence, at the age of 42. His reaction in the aftermath of his Olympic victory

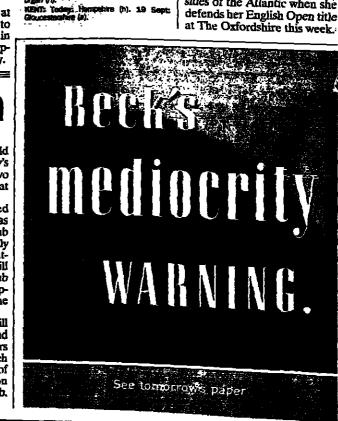
- may yet give way to a subse-quent request: "Hold your fire." A decision is likely to be reached in the next couple of months, he says, and a pending chat with his coach, Jürgen Grobler, will be a crucial factor. "I don't want to look back in 10 years time and think I left the sport too early. I'm very tempted to go to Sydney. In four years I feel I

could still be good enough."
Should Redgrave seek one last hurrah, he will be adequately funded. Most Britons further

down the sporting scale could not say the same, but yesterday's deal, which has been nearly two years in the making, is aimed at supporting the lower tiers. The £6m will be divided

roughly equally over three areas
- equipping and training club
volunteers, providing monthly
cash awards of £10,000 to outstanding performers which will be given to a local sports club of the winner's choice, and a sup-

port programme aimed at the 2000 Olympics.
The latter programme will provide annual grants of around £2,000-£3,000 for competitors just belong the file location. just below the élite level, which is currently receiving the bulk of the Sports Aid Foundation grants as part of the Top 100 club.



TO BECOME A TO FIRST YOUR OTBALLER S A PAINFUL PROCESS. TYRE ENGINEERING EXAMS.



# Rude reminders of the reality of life in Europe

Before their Uefa Cup first round games, Britain's repre-sentatives went through the formalities of warning that "there are no easy matches any more". set of results which put into perspective talk of the Premiership being Europe's top league meant it was back to "it's only

half-time in this tie" yesterday. In the case of Arsenal, beaten 3-2 by Borussia Mönchengladbach, that is likely to sound like so much straw-clutching come the second leg in Cologne on 24 September. Stewart Houston, linked with Leeds but still holding the fort for Arsène Wenger, rated Arsenal's performance their worst in Europe during his time there.

ary because of injury, may make the return game, although Dennis Bergkamp could be absent with a hamstring strain. Welcome as Adams' leadership would be. the quality most conspicuous by its absence was the blend of invention and industry displayed by

The 28-year-old midfielder, for whom Wenger is reportedly

Phil Shaw reflects on a night of mixed fortunes for British clubs in the Uefa Cup

er happens, I'll stay at Mönchen-gladbach for the rest of the sea-son," he said. "But everything is open and I'll discuss the situation That away goal means a bar-ren second leg would suffice the with my wife [who is also his

agent] in December."
While the Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, is not given to bravado, he had publicly anticipated that their fitness and pace would tell in the last 15 minutes against their part-time oppo-nents from Sweden. Instead,

Swedes, but their manager, Reine Almqvist, promised no re-peat of Tuesday's negative tactics. "We have a public to care about," he said, "a duty to entertain when we play at home." It was either kidology or naïveté. Either way, greater imagination remains the key to penetration for Villa.

#### **Evans urges Reds to go for goals**

Tony Adams, who has not Roy Evans, the Liverpool man-played for the club since Janu-ager, has told his players that he ager, has told his players that he wants a return to the days when English sides thrashed their

foreign opposition out of sight.

Evans is setting a target of "as many goals as possible" against the Finnish part-timers, MyPathe Finnish part-timers, MyPawhen they come to Anfield." 47, in today's Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg tie in Anja-lankoski. The club paid for failing to score home or away against Brondby last season, so a ady to pay £3m, did not rule out Evans is aware of the problem going to Scandinavia.

"We have to score, and score as many goals as we can," Evans said. "I suppose one goal would do it but we have to try and win

Evans expects to name a full-strength team. Defender Mark Wright has recovered from a knee injury and forwards Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler are showing no ill-effects from their back problems.

lems seeing off another Swedish outfit, Halmstads, Kevin Keegan gambled on playing two de-fenders at times and used five forwards, including the recalled and rampant Faustino Asprilla. "Europe is a party from League football," he said after a 4-0 win, a gung-ho approach unlikely to prosper against better opposition. Celtic, whose own multi-na-

tional strike force had amassed 22 goals in six games, ran into precisely that problem in the 2-0 defeat by Hamburg. "We're kid-ding ourselves if we think we'll get anywhere in Europe defending like that," their manager Tommy Burns said. "Hamburg are a half-decent Bundeslie team, but against a Scottish side they looked very good."

Bizarrely, Barry Town probably have a better chance of advancing than Arsenal or Celtic. The League of Wales champions - next assignment: away to Holywell - face a 3-1 deficit against Aberdeen. Yet they beat the Hungarian side, BVSC-Dreher, from an identical position in the preliminary round. An early home goal, to coin another Euro-cliché, could make things interesting.



Graeme Le Saux, the England full-back, insists the Blackburn players are determined to ease the pressure on their manager, Rav Harford.

Rovers' dismal start to the season - one point from a possble 15 – has made Harford a strong contender to become the latest managerial casualty.

However, Harford has stressed this week that he has no intention of quitting - and he can count on the support of his players as he tries to restore con-fidence in the wake of Alan Shearer's £15m departure to Newcastle. Le Saux said: "We are right behind Ray and it is up

We have the ability and the spir- tackle broke an opponent's leg. it to pull the club out of the lowly position it currently occupies."

But despite the backing of his players, Harford's search for a replacement for Shearer has become increasingly urgent. Rovers have only managed three goals in five games and Harford, who has run checks on Oliver Bierhoff - Germany's Euro 96 final "golden goal" hero - knows he needs to bring in a high-profile striker.

Italian magistrates yesterday ordered video footage of Internazionale's Serie A match against Udinese to be seized after a lawyer took legal action the players to pull together, against an Inter player whose not objected.

second new ball and quickly

accounted for both batsmen.

ZIMEMBRIFE: "A D R Campbell, !A Prover, G W Flower, C N Evens, H H Streak, P A Strang, C B Wishart, M H Delder, G J Whiteall, H R Otonga, A

season. The one-year contract

and I want a bike I can win the

WSB title on. The Ducati suits

me," Fogarty said. "I have found

this year very difficult. It feels

like I have been two practice ses-

sions behind everyone else

want to win for Honda," he said.

(5.0); Vaduz (Liech) v Paris St-Germain (Fr) (4.30) (at Eschen).

7.30 unless stated
PREMER LEAGUE: Ipswich v Eveter; London

GOLF: Wilkimson Sword Ladies English Open (at The Oxfordshire, Tharms) RALLYMNG: Marix International Ratily (Isle of Marx).

"Next year could be my last

is worth £750,000.

Magistrates said the seizure was a formality after the Udinese lawyer, Roberto Cianci, filed a formal complaint against defender Salvatore Fresi for a tackle on Udinese midfielder

Giovanni Stroppa last Saturday. Stroppa, a former Italian in-ternational, has been ruled out for at least 40 days after the seventh-minute foul. Fresi escaped with a booking for the straightlegged tackle. Cianci said on Tuesday that

his legal action against Fresi was a private initiative but added that he had spoken to Udinese officials about it and they had

while, threatened their own legal action against Fresi, saying they had bought season tickets purely to watch Stroppa and now felt cheated.

"I want to raise the problem as a matter of principle. We will try and resolve once and for all whether behaviour of a criminal nature on the pitch can be punished by the ordinary mag-istrates," Cianci was quoted as

Newspapers quoted the Inter president, Massimo Moratti, vesterday as saying the legal action was "in many ways absurd" and urging Cianci to tone down



Felix Mantilla of Spain serves during his defeat by Mariano

Stort (1917) & Commo (Life) O'Nistorius Buchinines (2; Cubinomo (Life) O'Nistorius Buchinines (2; Cubinomo (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life) (Life)

### Henman may play in **Davis Cup**

Tim Henman, the British No 1, will give his nagging groin injury a thorough test at Wimbledon on Monday to see whether he will be fit to face Egypt in the Davis Cup next week.

The tie, which starts on 20 September, will be the last competitive match on the No 1 Court at Wimbledon before it is demolished.

Henman, who reached the last 16 of the United States Open, was forced to drop out of the Bournemouth International Open this week because of the injury at the top of his left leg, but he made a visit to the West Hants Club yesterday and said: "I would be very disappointed if I were to miss the tie.

"The been having treatment twice a day since I returned from the US Open—icing, ultra-sound and stretching. I will test it at Wimbledon on Monday, hit a few balls and see how it goes. At the moment I'm very hopeful. I think I will be playing but you are never 100 per cent sure."

"The injury is just a case of wear and tear after a long season, and the rest should have done it some good I don't know how much good because, for the last week, I have not been doing anything, just visiting family and friends."

David Lloyd, the team captain, announced yes-terday that, if Henman is fit, the team would be Henman, Greg Rusedski, Mark Petchey and Neil Broad. The recall of Rusedski would then be the only change to the team who beat Ghana 5-0 in Accra in the last round. The Canadian-born left-hander was injured for that tie and was replaced by Luke Milligan.

The big surprise at Bournemouth yesterday came when the 18-year-old Argentinian Mariano Zabaleta beat the second seed, Felix Mantilla of Spain, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals.

The Centre Court match lasted for two hours and 13 minutes, and Zabaleta, the world junior champion, showed outstanding courage in beating an opponent ranked at No 16 in the world.

Zabaleta won the opening set of a long baseline duel, then broke the Spaniard in the first game of the second set. But then the wheels came off and Mantilla won nine of the next 10 games to lead

The young Argentinian, who has climbed from No 380 in the world rankings to No 125 in the last nine months, looked down and out but battled back to win five of the last six games.

Zabaleta had a bit of luck when Mantilla led 4-3 and reached break point on his rival's serve in the following game. Here Mantilla had a forehand drive called out - which would have given the Spaniard a 5-3 lead - only for the umpire to overrule the call.

Rusedski and Danny Sapsford, Britain's last two survivors in the singles, are not due to play their second round matches until today.

### Streak strikes for Zimbabwe

Fogarty lured by Ducati deal

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Speedway

Sri Lanka 290-7 v Zimbabwe

Heath Streak dismissed Arjuna

tain, and Romesh Kaluwitharana in the space of three balls to give Zimbabwe the initiative on the first day of the first Test in Colombo.

After electing to bat on a grassless pitch, Sri Lanka were reduced to 4 for 2 before Ranatunga and Kaluwitharana shared a partnership of 142 for the sixth wicket. Streak then swung the game back towards

arl Fogarty, Britain's reigning double World Superbike cham-

pion, will return to the works

Ducati team with whom he won

oth his titles in 1993 and 1994,

The 30-year-old rider from

llackburn, who despite Sun-

ay's twin victories at Assen,

letherlands, has struggled on

ie Honda RC45 this season,

all leave the HRC team at the

nd of the season to rejoin

/irginio Ferrari's Ducati Corse

rganisation. Next year may

e his last, and most lucrative,

Football
7-30 unless stated
£UROPEAN CUP-MUNNERS' CUPFIRST ROUND FIRST LEE
MyPa-47 (Fin) v Livespool (6.0)
Dither ties: Mines (Fr) v Kispest Horned
R-Ling); Surm Graz (Auti v Spatia Prague; Constructorul Chismau (Mol) v Geletasaray (Turk);
Riserstautem (Ger) v Hest Sar Belgade, Slom
(Shari) v Riya Virnyisya (Ulri (7.0); Asrius)
Den v Olmppa Lubiana (Sloveri (6.30); Cerela Bruges (Sel) v Brann (Nor) (7.0); Lotomotiv Moscow v Varteles Varcitic (Cros)
(4.30); Reylandi (Ioe) v Solna (Sine) (8.0);
Bercelona v AEK Lamaca (Cyp) (8.30); BertEa (Por) v Ruch Choratow (Pol) (9.30); AEK
Aldena v Chemion Humanne (Slovaki (7.15);
Gloria Bistria (Bron) v Florenthia (1) (2.0); Dyjamo Barumi (Geor) v PSV Eindoven (Neth)

Football

rites Andrew Martin.

flotorcycling

### O'Sullivan ties up

Fait 1-4, 2-4, 3-53, 4-105, 5-128, 6-270 7-271. To bet: M Murainharen, K J Sive. Bowling: Streek 17-5-41-3, Olonga 14-2-46-2, G Whotesi 9-1-31-0, Strang 29-3-89-2, A Whit-tel 11-3-35-0, Berrs 8-0-27-0, G Roser 4-1-16-0.

There has been no love lost

at Sheffield, O'Sullivan respouded that he could beat Robidoux "one-handed" and immediately made himself a target for any subsequent rematch.

felt strange because of what hap-pened at Sheffield," said O'Sullivan, who played every shot conventionally yet still came within three pots of defeat.

before I started each meeting." Fogarty, third in the champ-ionship after 10 rounds, 22 points behind his Honda teammate, Aaron Slight, remains in contention for a third championship. "Nothing has changed as far as the 1996 title is goes. I still ing level at 4-4.

> below my best and still won so that's got to be regarded as a

Ebdon, who had a 5-1 victory over the Welsh left-hander Mark Williams, needs to negotiate one more round to overtake John Higgins into second place in the provisional rank-

# Robidoux

Ronnie O'Sullivan admitted that he felt under greater pressure than normal after beating his Canadian rival Alain Robidoux 5-4 in the last 16 of the £230,000 Suntory Asian Classic in Thailand yesterday.

between the pair since Robidoux accused O'Sullivan of being "disrespectful" for playing a sequence of one-handed shots during their meeting at the world championship in April. After recording a 10-3 victory

"It was a funny game and I

O'Sullivan put together breaks of 86, 56 and 94 on the way to building a 4-2 lead but Robidoux stole the seventh frame on the black before draw-

The deciding frame came down to the colours before a relieved O'Sullivan potted blue and pink to fall over the line. "You've got to look at things in a positive way. I played well

plus," said O'Sullivan, who now faces Peter Ebdon in the quarter-fmals.

Benson Masya, the BUPA Great North Run record-holder and three times champion, will race in Sunday's half-will record time of 60min 25cc in 1994, had planned to give himself a rest from this year's race but he offered his services when South Africa's Olympic marathon champion, losis Thurwene, withdraw withdraw

Baseball

Alteración LEAGUE: Minesuiree 11 Boston 10;
Cereisand ? Callorine 5: Betimore 5 Ghraego Witte
50; 1; Teres 11 Torono 8; Kenses City 4 Seartie 2; Caldand ? Minnesona Cr. New York Yerinees
9 Dente 8.
MITIONAL LEAGUE: St Louis 1 San Francisco 0;
Houston 4 Priladelorie 3; Ronde 9 New York Mets
3 (12 Antingel; Chicago Cute 10 Montenia 3, Colcado 9 Atlanta 8; Louis 10 Magnetics 5 Cincernish 4;
San Diago 6 Prosburgh 5.

Terry Durstan, the British cruiserweight champion, is to meet the current European champion, Akim Tafer of France, by 15 December after the Ukranian Alexander Gorov withdrew from the fight in order to pursue a world title chance.

Cycling
TOUR OF SPAIN Fifth stage (210 km, Murcha
to Albaeriat: 1.1 Shievers (Neith) TAM 4rr 39min
39ec; 2 N Minst Ri Gener; 3 T Steets (Be) Mapet;
4 G Lomberti (I) Potic 6 A Edo (Sp.) Fetane; 6 M
Apotenio (1) Senge at same time. Overall standtage: 1 Jelahert 20fr 47min 47sec; 2 Beldebi
+3ec; 3 Lomberti 4-9sec; 4 J Werner (Ger)
Telekom +20ec; 5 S Wezenmann (Ger) Telekom
+26; 6 S Faustri (I) AM.

The Anglo-Italian Cup has been scrapped this season because the English and Italian Leagues cannot agree on dates for

IRIT LEAGUES CONTROL Agree ON CATES FOR TOULTES.

USPA CUP First round first lag: Hutnik Krakow O Moraco 1; Sileobog 2 Spartak Moscow 3. MANDR LEAGUE SOCIET. New Yorkhow Jersey MetroStats 3 Los Angales Gallary 1. AVON SISURANCE COMMENUTION League Cup: Wast Harn 3 Insalch 1; Windledon 6 Brighton 1; Cateff 1, Swanses 1. Carciff 1 Swenses 1, TUBSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Unfa Cap Float mand that lags Abadeen 3 Barry Town 1; Asamal 2 Boute-sia Minchenbach 3; Aston Villa 1 Heistragongs 1; Celtr. 0 Hermburg 2; Nescasto 4 Heimstain C, Ab-nie Viscilicarius; (Rus) 2 Anderlecht (Beit 1; Apoel

> TODAY'S NUMBER 166

The number of votes won by Matthias Sammer, the 29year-old Borrussia Dortmund captain elected Germany's Footballer of the Year for the second year running. Jürgen Klins-mann was second with 154.

Pools dividends ITUSHOST THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CONTROL OF THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND THE CHARGE TEST AND TH

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Wilgan 1; Bester O; Futhern 1; Burley C; Leepin 1;
Wasser C; Cardfor O; Allender C; Burney C; Cardfor O; Socitish Leegue Premise Divisions
2; Burney 2; Burney 2; Parish 1; Suffy 1 Montrobe 3; Best's Socitish Leegue Premise Divisions
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After C; Lutter 1; Burner Burley 1; Leek Town
C, Claryn Bey O William AD C; Servistonugh
1; Gusseley C; Lurester 4 Coulty 1; Leek Town
C, Claryn Bey O; William AD C; Gerestonugh
1; Scarborough 2; Drome 1; Burner C; Burner C;
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Development C, Lurester 4; Burner C;
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Divisions 1; Burner C; 2306.00
ZETTERS Troble clotruce: 22pts £11,294.00, 21.
£23.40, 20 £2.56, 19 £0.30, Four dames £40.00.
Eight houses: £13.40. Four assays: £2.40. Super Seven: £64.40.
BRITTERS Troble chaece: 22pts £1,608.60, 21.
£15.60, 20 £1.00, 19 £0.30, Four dames £18.80.
Eight houses: £62.30. Five aways: £12.20.

Rugby League
Matthew Elliott, the new Bradford Bulls chief coach, has appointed Michael Potter, a former Australian team-mate, to his staff. Along with the former Bradford hooker, Brian Noble, they will form the ways the conching team in the Sunger

# The veteran olympic bronze medalist Glen Foster, of the United States, won yesterday's fourth race of the Dragon European Championship in Pwilhell, Wales, only to be disqualified following a protest by the sailor who came second, Netherland's Fred Imhoff. STINDOPACH SUNTERY ASIAN CLASSIC (Benglosh) Second round: R O'Sulliver (Eng) bt A Robidour (Carl) 5-4: P Endon (Eng) bt M Williams (Wal) 5-1: T De-go (Matta) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-1; S Davis (Eng) bt R Lawler (Eng) 5-3. Tennis

Salling

Goran Ivanise/Ic yesterday pulled out of the Romanian Open with a shoulder injury a day after Boris Becker, the No 1 seed, left the tournament after suffering a recurrence of the wrist in-jury that ended his Wimbledon campaign in the summer.

In the summer.

Monica Seles, Undsay Devenport, Mary Joe Fernandez and Linda Wild were to-day selected by Billie Jean King to represent the United States against Spain, the defending champions, in the Fed Cup final in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on 28-29 September. The US Open champion Staffi Graf will play a tournament in Leipzig from 30 September to 6 October, despite her fa-

#### CRICKET SCOREBOARD Tetley Bitter Festival final

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Stortinol 1; Working O Tooking & Mitchen United 3. Jewane Essistan Leegias Premier Divisions
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Busippod Rovers 0 Rounerdele United 2; Bootle
O Nampsch Town 6: Busicough 1 Vendral GM 1; One-day metch Yorkshire v Worcestershire WORCESTER!

Falt 1-3, 2-29, 3-58, 4-90, 5-115, 6-117, 7-155, 8-171, 9-196.

Starting today ivo v Lancashire (at



6-4 6-3.
CZBCH OPPEN WONLEN'S TOURNAMENT (Karlony Vary) Singles, first round: B Paulus (Aut) bi K Maleeva (Bul) 6-4 6-3; I Musiaver (Shorak) bi H Saleeva (Ext Repil 6-3 6-3. Second rement 5 13-bips (Oras) bi K Habustons (Shorak) 6-4 6-0; R Dagparis (Form) bi D (Habistons (C2 Rep) 6-1 6-0; F Perfetti (II) bit R Bobbova (C2 Rep) 6-1 8-0; E Gagliard (Mort) bit S Hack (Gar) 4-7-6; K Sudeninua (Slova) bit S Dopfer (Aut) 6-2 6-1.

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Jonathan Fuller said yester-





# WHITAKER ENJOYING THE MIND GAMES

Leicestershire's canny captain talks to Jon Culley.

THE INDEPENDENT - THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

# Venables Florida Marlins punish Mets in extra innings rules out

a return to QPR

#### Football

Queen's Park Rangers must continue their search for a new manager, after Terry Venables pledged his future to Portsmouth to end speculation that he could make a dramatic return to Loftus Road.

Venables had been touted as possible successor to Ray Wilkins, but admitted he is happy with his new post as di-rector of football at Fratton Park. The former England coach, who took QPR to an FA Cup final in 1982 and the Second Division title the following season, said: "You won't be see-ing me turn up at Loftus Road in the next couple of days. As far as I am concerned, it is business as normal - and business as usual for me is Portsmouth

"I am happy doing what I am doing with them. It's a nice club, a nice area and there are a lot of nice people.

Portsmouth's chairman, Martin Gregory, who asked Venables to take on an advisory role to assist the Portsmouth manager, Terry Fenwick, last month. is the son of the former QPR chairman Jim Gregory - who appointed Venables as manager at Loftus Road in 1980.

QPR owner, Chris Wright, still searching for the right man to try and take the London club back into the Premiership at the first time of asking.
Wright said: "We have seen

one or two people, but the current managerial merry-goround has changed the picture. Someone we thought might be available isn't and someone we thought wasn't available is. I'd like to have someone in place before the weekend, but I don't think we'll get there. We are working as swiftly as we possibut we've got to make sure we get the right person." With Venables counting him-

self out of the running and Ray But you never know." Harford continuing to fight for his job at Blackburn, the QPR spotlight has fallen on Charlton's manager, Alan Curbishley. However, QPR's London First Division rivals warned that it will prove expensive if they try to recruit Curbishley. Charlton's executive director

day: "We have had no approach from QPR and would not welrome one. Alan has three years left on his contract with us and we also have him still registered as a player. So if he went, we would demand a considerable

But Fuller admitted: "We wouldn't stand in his way if he made it clear he wanted to go, but that has not happened and,

hopefully, it won't Chariton's vice-chairman and managing director, Richard Murray, who has held the financial power at The Valley since Roger Alwen stepped down as chairman, said: "I have heard the speculation that Alan is on QPR's short-list, but if they approached us for him I would strenuously resist it." Murray refused to put a price on Cur-bishley's services but the figure could be as much as £1m and he confirmed: "If QPR want him and he wants to go it will cost a considerable amount."

Curbishley, the former West Ham and Birmingham midfielder, is not commenting on the possibility of a move to Loftus Road. After taking Charlton off the bottom of the table with a 2-0 win at home to Southend on Tuesday night, he said: "It is not a fair question to put to me, although I have been flattered Wenables' decision leaves the to be linked in the newspapers PR owner. Chris Wright, still with the vacancies at both QPR and Manchester City."

Meanwhile, coaches Frank Sibley and John Hollins, the former Chelsea manager, remained in caretaker-charge of Rangers for last night's game at Norwich.

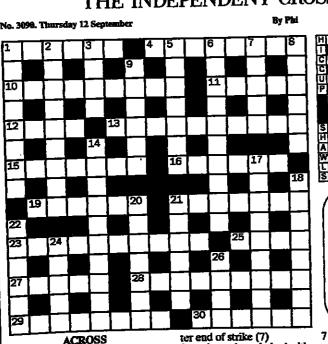
Slaven Bilic, the Croatian international, is thinking over his future with West Ham. The 28-year-old defender, a target for Tottenham, says he is considering West Ham's offer of a new contract. "It is too early to say what the conclusion will be," said Bilic. "But I think and hope I will stay here. I am completely happy at West Ham. I have a superb relationship with the players, the manager and the fans.

Bilic, who cost West Ham £1.3m when he joined them from the German side Karlsruhe last February, has become a huge favourite at Upton Park. He helped West Ham finish in the top 10 in the Premiership last season then starred in Euro

Down and out: Tim Bogar's slide into second base is in vain, with Kurt Abbott of the Florida Marlins catching him short before sending the ball on its way in an attempt to complete a double play against the New York Mets at Shea Stadium, New York. Florida won the National League game, which went to an extra innings, 9-3.

Photograph: AP

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS mes used in transac tion to get lumber (6)

Warning accurately reproduced about name implicated in court action? (8)

out hesitation? T called for! (10)

called for! (10)

25 Is aim direct? (4)

77 Composer – little 10 Trick right to be kept back: challenge's to come up again

11 Display arrives, being brought to a yard (5)
12 Request secretary to bring in

12 Request secretary to bring in the French (4)
13 Hunry up and revive the housing market! (3,1,4,2)
15 Specially adapted group of organisms cope (yet with difficulties) (7) ficulties).(7)
16 One getting stuck into booze shows a defensive position

19 Everyone in the German city (6)
21 Slagheap, say, certainly produced by stuff from mine af-

27 Composer - little change in French one (5) 28 Pottery provides fresh article in larder (9) 29 Cutters from US state (one's

gold on board) (8) 30 Contemptible sailor, caught in a stream of water (6) Missile (end blown off) securing hit - note source of wounds? (8)

Dane'd possibly suffice (9) Owner of cricket ground – look over the road... (4) Queen's entering cricket ground on left, in general (7) 26 Girl gossiped about love – and vanished into thin air! (10)

Thursday 12 September 19

int PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Micror Colour Print. St

Wait on convict escaping from keep (5) Year in Conservative circle will provoke wailing (6) Skin disease going roun English riding-school (6)

14 Please, in any possible way (2,3,5) 17 Pardon one taking rat in river 18 Exhausted policeman finds it dolf (8)

20 Provide backing for trail go-ing around lowest parts of Appalachians (7)
21 US city midway between East and West until this time (6) Public transport busine losing heart (6) 24 Arab, one attending Univer-

sity in dismal surroundings mary, say, or some other bird (4)

# Lee angered by talk of **lost City investments**

Manchester City's chairman, Francis Lee, has rejected claims that the club missed out on a possible £70m infusion of Arab oil money because he would not release enough information on the state of the club's finances.

City, struggling to recover from relegation to the First Division, have been constantly linked with takeover speculation. Reports suggested that two oil-rich princes were said to be ready to pump up to £70m into the club but that their financial advisors broke off discussions, accusing Lee of failing to produce the necessary information.

Lee insists he is not at fault. "It's important when you negotiate with someone on these matters that you know who is ultimately going to take the in-terest in the club and I have never been assured of that," he

"When I find out a name, or I am given one, I will release in-formation. We think we are

handling everything in the correct way and we do it through our lawyers."

Lee said that over the past 18 months or so he had talks with haif a dozen people who wanted to invest in the club. Having signed letters of confidentiality, none of them had come back with firm offers. Neither had they said what type of money they were talking of investing in

"Unfortunately, one of these people who has signed a confi-dentiality letter keeps spouting off and he's completely out of order. If anyone has anything which is beneficial to Manchester City I will listen," Lee

"It is normal procedure to exchange letters of confidential-ity when you speak to people but in this case, and one other case, people have broken that

"It's really disappointing but if anyone wants to invest in the club I will certainly be willing to

listen providing it's done in the

proper manner. One thing that does rile me is when I read that we are £20m in debt and nearly bankrupt. That is a load of rubbish." Dave Bassett, the manager of

Crystal Palace, said yesterday he had not been approached by City about the vacant manager's job. City, still searching for a replacement for Alan Ball, are reported to have turned their attention to Bassett after Sheffield United refused permission for them to approach Howard Kendall.

Bassett, Kendall's predecessor at Bramali Lane, said: "No one from Manchester City has spoken to me about the job there. All I've heard is the hype. People are saying I'm on their short list but I'm not interested in that because it's all

"It's a case of crossing bridges as they arise. If Manchester City speak to me. I've got something

# Wenger's successor lined up

Messages crossing the Pacific could deliver comfort to Arsenal. Carlos Queiroz, the coach of the US Major League club New York/New Jersey Metro-Stars, said yesterday he had been the manager's job by the Japanese club Grampus Eight.

If the Portuguese coach accepted, that could clear the way for Arsene Wenger to pack his bags and fly from Nagoya to London to take on the task of nanaging Arsenal. As Wenger's arrival is await-

ed, a winger who left Highbury

could be making another move.

Bolton want to take the Swede

Anders Limpar on loan from sign Steve Corica and Kalac for Everton with a view to signing him to aid their campaign to return to the Premiership.

Manchester City, similarly striving to go straight back up, have signed the former Nottingham Forest centre-back Darren Wassall on a month's loan from Derby. Leicester City have won a

claim for damages against another of the promotion contenders. Wolves, over their withdrawal from the transfer of goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac. A Football League commission found that Wolves had agreed to only a week in charge.

a combined fee of £1.75m, subject to obtaining work permits, but then only took Corica. The commission ordered Wolves to pay Leicester £250,000 in dam-

ages for breach of contract. A similar contract wrangle in Scotland has resulted in Raith Rovers making Iain Munro their new manager in succession to Tommy McLean, after St Mirren claimed he had joined them as manager on Tuesday even though no contract had been signed. McLean left Raith to join Dundee United after

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